

1st Quarter, 2002

On The Right Track

Letter From

Our President

Welcome all new members and hello to our many greyhound families. The New Year is beginning and we have lots of new things going on. I want to welcome our new Executive Director Eliot Kabachnick and look forward to working with you. With regret we say good by to Carla Hartman who has been our Executive Director for many years. I sincerely thank-you for all your years of dedication to GPA and welcome you as a volunteer in the year 2002.

Our Assistant Executive Director Alexandra Malone also resigned and is pursuing a new challenge obtaining a degree in Veterinary technology. We sincerely hope she will be coming back to us after she completes her training.

We will keep you posted on the new changes happening this year by way of the website and newsletter. As always, all members are invited to attend board meetings, which are held each month. This last year was a time of change with many new board members. We sincerely hope that these changes will meet with your approval and that you as members will support our many programs, which include the Kennel Volunteer Program. We have had many successful fund-raisers; our special needs donations, gift-wrapping, and retail sales at our parties, the golf tournament, and storefront donations. We have also started our building fund. As you renew your membership please be thinking of ways that you would like to contribute to our organization, either through donations of time or money.

This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to safety. In the last month we have had reports of 17 greyhounds getting loose. Please read carefully the article on greyhound safety. Accidents do happen and by taking the extra steps to protect your greyhound, you may very well save his life.

Lets all have a safe and happy new year.

Sharry MacLaren
President, GPA Houston

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Thank-you Carla

As many of you know Carla Hartman has retired from the position of Executive Director of GPA/Houston. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for her years of dedicated service to our organization. Many of us can think back to our first meeting with Carla, the day we came in to find that special grey to add to our family. She was able to convey to us the love she felt for this breed and her love was contagious. The extent of Carla's knowledge about greyhounds is amazing and her determination to make sure no dog in our grey family was ever mistreated is well known. We will miss her and hope that she enjoys some well earned R&R.

GPA/Houston Board of Directors

Chris Ryan to Retire as Editor

Many years ago, we won't say how many, Chris Ryan took on the job of editor for our GPA/Houston Newsletter. This is no small task, as those of us new to the newsletter staff are learning. Chris has decided to take a break from the newsletter and is trusting us to continue on with the excellent job she has done in the past. We want to thank Chris for all the work she has done over the years, not only with the newsletter, but on the Board of Directors, organizing the Hoopla and in so many other areas. Please be sure and keep in touch Chris. We will miss you.

GPA/Houston Board of Directors

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Area Coordinators

We have broken down the Houston Metropolitan Area into sections to facilitate handling storefronts and other local events. Each area has a "coordinator" that is in charge of things going on in that part of town.

Below is a brief outline of each area and where it is located. Also listed are area coordinators for that area.

Area 1 Roughly inside Loop 610, beginning downtown and going north and west through the Bellaire area.

Coordinator Available

Area 3 West Houston, north of I-10
Coordinator Jan Szyskzyowski

Area 4 Southwest Houston
Coordinator Available

Area 5 Area south and east of Houston, from Pasadena down to Galveston.
Coordinator Tom Miller 281 218-0836
enpaix@ev1.net
Jim/Karen Guerra 281 286-7629
jimguerra@flash.net

Area 6 Cities southwest of Houston (Sugarland, Stafford, Missouri City, etc.)
Coordinator Available

Area 7 Far northwest Houston and its suburbs
Coordinator Sharry MacLaren 281 651-6565
sharry@gpahouston.org

Area 8 The Woodlands and areas north
Coordinator Available

Area 9 Kingwood
Coordinator Joanne Timm 281 299-4448
greyhoundcraze@aol.com

Area 10 Beaumont Area
Coordinator Available

Area 11 Far West Houston and Katy
Coordinator Laura Marshall 281 599-8918
llllnm@pdq.net

New Executive Director Selected

We would like to announce the appointment of Eliot Kabachnick as our new Executive Director. Eliot joins GPA from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) where he was a Senior Grievance Coordinator. As Executive Director, Kabachnick will be responsible for managing all kennel operations, adoption screening and services, developing consistency across the operations team, and assist in the design and development of new educational services. Kabachnick will report to the Board of Directors.

Eliot spent over 20 years with the TDCJ working in various areas of the department. Kabachnick earned his Bachelors degree from the University of Massachusetts, and received his Masters from San Diego State University. He shares his home with his nine year old greyhound Spooky.



From Eliot

Greetings

I have been selected as your new Executive Director. I am honored.

The website has details about my background so I won't review those here. I would like to repeat the story about how I discovered GPA, originally shared with those who enjoyed the recent Holiday Party.

Four years ago at Christmas I was browsing (the now defunct) Crown books in Sugar Land. I nearly tripped over a greyhound couch potato curled up adjacent to the GPA wrapping table. I had never seen a grey up close and personal. My sister back in Massachusetts had one and raved about hers every time we phoned (until I'd change the subject). I had never owned a pet, dog or otherwise, as an adult---with the exception of the baby alligator I brought back from a science field trip to the Everglades. But that's another story. I approached the greyhound, curious about the breed my sister was so hooked on. I remember asking the GPA members if all greys were this mellow. An "Adopt a Retired Athlete" brochure was "forced" upon me. I

glanced at it as I walked across the parking lot. Interest piqued, I sat in my truck and devoured the pamphlet cover to cover. I called Massachusetts to see whether my sister thought I would be a good candidate for adopting a grey. She strongly encouraged me to consider the opportunity, adding (prophetically) that adopting a greyhound "will change your life".

I had to wait until after the holiday for the kennel to reopen and I made several visits, extracting information from Cathy and Pat, and played with several of the greys. After several issues were resolved "Spooky" (a 5 1/2 year old red brindle male) chose me.

Spooky is now 9 1/2. He is shy and true to his name, easily "spooked". Spooky and I are still bonding. As my sister predicted, the adoption has changed my life in many ways, including this new career with GPA. You are probably crazy about greys as well. I am willing to wager that this unique breed and your own very special "babies" have indeed changed your lives as well.

I look forward to working with our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, current and future members. See ya'll (not bad for a Yankee, huh?) at the kennel!

Eliot Kabachnick



Volunteer Page

ATTENTION: New Year's Resolution. Might I suggest...

As resolutions for the New Year go, losing weight, spending more time with family and stopping smoking are some of the more general ones in the top ten. Other resolutions tend to be more personal to the individual. And while all resolutions are possible to achieve, many fall by the wayside and are forgotten, or worse yet instill guilt for lack of achievement. This may be because they are a bit lofty in their scope and the resolution-maker is overwhelmed before he or she even begins, no matter how well-intentioned they are or how much resolve the person has at that moment in time.

But a resolution for the New Year doesn't have to be grand. It doesn't have to be earth-shattering. Take volunteering for example. It requires very little of a person's time in order to be achieved. Volunteer a little every once in a while and you are a success in the realm of New Year's resolutions.

Volunteer a little on a regular basis and your self-esteem will start to soar. Being a regular volunteer in the areas that most appeal to you as an individual would equate to a "commitment" since you like doing it because it helps all those involved, which inspires you to do more, which makes you feel even better, etc.

Greyhound Pets of America / Houston is an organization that exists and grows because of the strength of its volunteer base. If only a few people come forward to offer their help, then the organization can only expect to make progress a baby-step at a time in their efforts to find these fantastic dogs that perfect home. There are approximately 500 GPA members in Houston and surrounding areas. Only a very small percentage of those have come forward to offer their time and talents.

Many times an individual will think of volunteering but don't pursue it because of any number of reasons. Some people assume that volunteering has to take up a lot of their time; or, that a person will be pushed into doing something that they are uncomfortable doing; or, my personal favorite, the hugely false impression that there are already plenty of volunteers available to handle everything GPA does or needs. Not true.

By definition, *volunteer* means, "one who enters into any service or undertakes anything of his own free will." As a person who is already a member of GPA/Houston or maybe someone who has fallen in love with the breed, please rethink your New Year's resolutions for 2002. You are already passionate about these dogs in your heart. Why not offer some helping hands, and volunteer some of your time. There are so many areas in which to choose from and GPA needs each and everyone of you. I guarantee this would be one resolution that you can fulfill all the while holding your head up with pride knowing you have helped some very deserving greyhounds in the process. After all, you love these dogs and GPA is YOUR organization. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Laura Marshall

Just One More Thing

It was Friday, December 21, Jim and I had just delivered the last children's gifts to Star of Hope TLC the night before, completing a month long push to buy, deliver and wrap about 800 gifts for the children at TLC. This is a project we started ten years ago, and it always comes together on time, but the last week is especially hectic to say the least. I was on the way to the airport to pick up Tiffany, the skin kid who is coming home for Christmas, her first visit home since starting her freshman year at UPenn. We had promised to take her to her favorite restaurant, Sammy's, tonight. My cell phone rings, and the call is asking if I can go pick up a stray somewhere out in Needville, and foster her. I'm thinking that I have no idea when we will be home, and this is the kid's first time back, and I am really, really tired, and say "no, I just really can't do it this time, sorry". OK, five minutes later, the guilt starts, and I'm thinking, we have got to do this. I called Jim to get ahold of someone and find out where the stray is, and how to get ahold of the person who found her. He reports back that he talked to Sharry and got the lady's name and phone number, and directions to her house. Get to the airport, what should be a 45 minute trip to IAH turned into three hours. Tell the kid "get in, we have to go find a Greyhound". Jim tries several times to call the lady, and we finally get ahold of her, she says she is leaving, but she will keep the Greyhound and we can pick her up in the morning. I ask where she is, and she replies that she is chained to a post on the front porch, she's been on the porch all day. I told her we would just come and pick her up tonight, she said she should be home by 11:00pm, and gives me her cell phone #. We found the house about 10:30pm, and sure enough, there was a Greyhound chained to a post. We got out of the van to head towards the house, and from 20 feet away you could see her shaking and hear her teeth rattle. We got a martingale collar on her and removed the chain, and Jim carried her to the van, where she immediately laid down on the comforter and did not move again until we got home. Ginger walked into the house like she had always been there, there were a few words of protest between our four girls and Ginger, then they all settled down, Ginger got to eat and drink, and was very happy to be there. This 3 year old Greyhound was "given away" by her owner a year ago, and whoever she was given to decided they did not want her anymore, and apparently gave her to someone else, she must have gotten loose, and then ended up at the house in Needville. She is the sweetest little girl, very calm, has had no potty problems, or any other behavior problems. From her "life on the road" she apparently picked up something that has caused her some tummy trouble, but will be on medication for ten days, then back to vet, and will eventually need to go in to be spayed and get all shots updated. Ginger has had a very Merry Christmas along with our four Greys and will be with us until she is ready to finally get a proper forever home. I guess the moral to this story is, we can always do just one more thing.

Jeannie Wehrman

Volunteer Opportunities with GPA Houston

Are you looking for a way to help out, but not sure what you can do. Check the following list of volunteer opportunities and see if one fits your needs.

Helping Out at the Kennel

Kennel volunteers help with bath brigades, bathing new dogs as they come in, exercising and socializing kennel dogs, clipping nails, brushing teeth, and just spending some quality time with the dogs.

Transporting to Vet appointments

Transportation volunteers pick dogs up at the kennel and transport them to their vet appointments and/or pick up from vet appointments to return to the kennel.

Temporary Foster Homes

We would like to begin keeping dogs in a foster home for a few days after their spay and/or neuter to help them recover. These volunteers would have the option of picking a dog up on Saturday, taking it to the vet during the week and returning the dog the following Saturday.

Holiday Foster Homes

Our foster periods are Fourth of July week, two weeks at Thanksgiving and three weeks at Christmas.

Adopt an Animal Shelter

We would like to start a new program in which a volunteer "adopts" an animal shelter in their area. The volunteer would be responsible for calling the shelter on a weekly basis to check and see if any greyhounds have come in, visiting the shelter to look for greyhounds and establishing a relationship with the shelter management.

The Long Haul

On occasion, we need volunteers to pick up greyhounds from their breeders and/or trainers. The drive may be as close as League City or as far as Austin.

Storefronts

Check the webpage for listings of storefronts in your area, or start your own. Does your local Petsmart, Petco not have a Greyhound Storefront. Talk to the manager about starting one. We will be happy to supply you with supplies and information.

Area Coordinators

We have several area coordinator positions available. Area coordinators are in charge of the happens at their end of town. If you think you might be interested please contact us and we will answer any questions you might have.

IVAS Demonstrations

This is a great time to help educate some of the vets on what great pets Greyhounds make & it is also a good opportunity to get out & socialize your Greys. A added benefit is the donation that IVAS makes to GPA/Houston. The next sessions will be held on Thursday Jan 24 2:30 - 6:45 and Saturday Jan 26 2:00 - 6:15. Contact Lee@gpahouston.org for more info.

Bring Your Hound to the Pound Animal Health Fair March 3rd

Volunteers needed to man GPA booth at this Animal Control Sponsored Event.

Easter Hoopla

Tentative date, March 24. We need organizers and workers for the day of the event.

If you are interesting in helping out in any of these area, please contact us at volunteer@gpahouston.org We appreciate your help.

Ad Space Available

Would you like to wish your pup a happy birthday and help GPA at the same time? Maybe you have a business that you would like to promote to the GPA family. Ad space is available in our newsletter. A business card size ad will cost \$25.00. Larger ads are also available. If you would like to place an ad in our next addition, please email the information to newsletter@gpahouston.org

We would like to thank
GODATA
for publishing and mailing our
newsletter. Your help is
greytly appreciated.

Greyt Photo Gallery

New Olympic event:
Synchronized sleeping



Photo by Don Goldstein

Smokey 'working' at
a Storefront



Photo by Tim Heller

The big and the small



Photo by Carolyn Sonye

Do you have a favorite photo of your greys that you would like to share. If it is in digital format, email it to newsletter@gpahouston.org or mail the hard copy to

Newsletter
P.O. Box 741176
Houston, TX 77274

Please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope if you would like the photo returned.

and SCOOPS

POOPS

Poop: Pat Swift got the best gift at the annual Christmas party....Brandy almost came there with a bow on top!!! And it only took Mike a week or so to notice that there was another dog in the house

Poop: within a few minutes of putting up the tree (no lights or ornaments yet) Honey was found half inside and half outside the tree looking out the other side of the tree. When asked "Honey Do what'cha doing hiding in the tree?" she just smiles and wags her tail while still hiding in the tree.

Scoop: Over \$4100 was raised at the Barnes and Noble gift-wrappings this year. A big thank-you goes out to all volunteers who helped out.

Scoop: Ashley Joyner celebrated her birthday at the kennel, volunteering. A greyt time was had by all, especially the dogs who got bathed, cleaned and even got their nails trimmed and polished. Also, Ashley wanted her birthday money to be donated to the dogs as well, so a big WOOOF goes out to Ashley!!!

Poop: Hugo (aka Dinky) is enjoying his new home...in fact so much that he helps clear the table, that is he takes the tablecloth off and brings it to his bed...who said greyhounds don't help around the house.

Poop: There were a large number of people who failed fostering this season....at least 10 at Christmas. Here's a situation where failure can be a greyt thing. Congratulations to all those who have failed this holiday season!!!

Scoop: Cheryl Gilson from Bluffs Run in Iowa was in Houston on December 8 to talk about how some of our dogs lived prior to being brought to GPA for adoption. Cheryl has been a trainer for 11 years and has a psychology degree as well. A big WOOOF goes out to her as well for coming and talking to us. Watch the webpage for upcoming education classes.

If you have a funny story to tell, or see something happen and want to tell, please let us know at newsletter@gpahouston.org and remember, there's always someone watching!!!

Keeping our Greyhounds Safe

For a greyhound owner there is no worse experience than having your dog run away. Sometimes the dog slips it's collar, or a child or visitor accidentally leaves the door or gate open. As soon as you realize your dog is gone, your heart stops and you begin to think the worst.

A few facts you should know:

*"The leading cause of death among retired racing greyhounds is escaping and being hit by a car."

"Seventy-five percent of greyhounds that run away are killed the first day. Ninety percent of those are killed in the first hour." *

Accidents happen to even the most experienced greyhound owner. Although we don't like to think about bad things happening to our dogs, we can give our dogs the best chance for surviving the experience of running away by being prepared.

Prevention:

Check your ID tags

Be sure that the ID and phone number are readable on your GPA tags. If not, contact GPA/Houston for new tags.

If you have a greyhound that was not adopted through GPA, we would be happy to give you a GPA Id # and tag.

Add your own identification tag to your dog's collar with your contact information

Have the GPA emergency number and your ID tag numbers posted in a prominent place. When you adopted your grey you were given a magnet to keep on your refrigerator. If you need a new one, please let us know.

If you are traveling, use a temporary ID tag with a phone number that you can be reached at or where messages can be left.

Never run your dog off-leash unless it is in a securely fenced area. Never means NEVER.

-Your contract with GPA/Houston requires that your dog be on a leash at all time, unless in an enclosed area.

-There are people out there who will tell you that they've never had a problem letting their greyhound run loose. Please, don't believe them. They've been lucky. One day their luck will run out. Their dog will take off after something and be lost, seriously injured or killed. Greyhounds can not be trained out of their instinct to chase

Have an emergency kit ready

It should include an extra collar and leash, a squawker or squeaky toy, a flashlight, doggie treats, first aid supplies, GPA emergency phone numbers, ID tag numbers and a blanket.

If you move, notify GPA of your new address and phone number.

Secure outdoor fences and gates

Check your fence on a regular basis for holes and worn areas.

Lock the gates to your backyard. Install springs or bungee cords on the gate so that it is self-closing

Walking your dog

If you have a dog that tends to spook, use a harness when walking.

Walk your dog on a short leash. This will prevent your dog from building up momentum when attempting to chase a squirrel or other small fuzzy animal.

Do NOT use retractable flexi leashes. These leashes can cause serious injury and are difficult to hold on to if your dog bolts.

Establish a pattern for you daily walks. Cover the same area. A dog that escapes tends to follow a familiar route and it will make it easier for him to find his way home.

Riding in the car

Always have the collar and leash on when taking your dog to the car. (If you use a short leash you can leave it on in the car)

Be careful that your dog doesn't bolt when you open the door. Train your dog to wait.

*Statistics taken from the website A Breed Apart www.abap.org

In Your Home

Train your family and guests to be careful when coming in or out of the house.

Use baby gates near exits to increase your dog's security.

If you know you have company coming, put the dogs in their crate or in another room until the company has arrived and settled in.

Think preventively. Look out for situations that may not be safe for your dog.

While Traveling

Make sure you have temporary ID on your dog

Be careful at rest stops and whenever getting in and out of your car.

If you leave your dog home with a pet sitter, be sure that your care giver knows how to handle your dog and what to do in an emergency.

What to do if your dog gets loose

If your dog has just escaped, immediately go after the dog. If you can, bring a squawker or squeak toy, a flashlight and another greyhound with you to attract his attention. Have a leash and collar ready. If possible bring along a cell phone.

If you've lost sight of your dog and more than 15 minutes has passed, go home and check your answering machine. Have friends and family continue searching if possible.

Call the GPA/Houston emergency line to report your missing greyhound. We may already have been contacted that your grey has been found. In many cases, your dog will run for a few minutes and then head for the next group of humans he sees. (If you have a cell phone with you, call the emergency line while looking)

If you come home and your dog is missing:

Check your answering machine

Call GPA/Houston emergency line

Find friends, neighbors and family to help look for your dog. GPA may be able to help you find people to assist in the search

Take a squawker or squeaky toy, flashlight, collar and leash, cell phone and if possible another dog with you as you search.

If you spot your dog and he seems spooked and will not come to you, walk away from him or lie down on the ground and call him gently.

If your dog has been missing for more than a few hours:

Call local animal groups, shelters, SPCA, Animal Control

Put up signs with a general description. Offer a reward but do not state the amount of the reward.

Posters should be put in local stores, on telephone and light poles, at vet offices, along walking routes, libraries, churches, post office, and any other place where as many people as possible will see it.

Ask local schools to make an announcement about your lost dog

Continue contacting local animal shelters and rescue groups every few days.

Leave food and water outside for your dog in case he finds his way home. If he is your only dog, leave the gate open to the back yard.

Be sure to always have identification on your dogs. Accidents happen to even the most conscientious greyhound owner. We all hope that we are never put in this situation but by being prepared for the possibility we can increase our odds of a happy outcome.

Be careful out there and hug your hounds!

Noreen



How Safe is an Off-Lead Run?

Three years ago a young couple had come up to me at a dog show to ask about greyhounds. They wanted to know what greyhounds were like and where they could obtain a puppy. Six months later they introduced me to their six-month-old puppy, a pretty fawn and white parti-color girl with intelligent eyes. They lived in a nearby college town, and several years later I ran into them and Chloe on the street there. She had grown into a friendly and attractive adult.

Then, this spring I was raising my first litter of puppies in eight years, and the couple phoned to ask if they could come to see the puppies. They visited several times and when I asked how Chloe was, they said that she had been killed by a car two weeks earlier. There was a park near her house where they had taken her all her life to run with the neighborhood dogs. But there was a street on one side of it, and an open field on the far side of the street. And one night there was a jack rabbit in that open field. Chloe saw it, chased it and ran directly into the path of a car. She was killed instantly. What the couple was doing in visiting was getting a puppy fix to counteract their grief.

After a few visits they asked me how much training a greyhound would need in order for it to come back to the owner when called, even if it was chasing game. The answer was simple. There is no amount of training that will enable an owner to call back a greyhound when it is pursuing game.

You have to expect that a greyhound that sees cats, squirrels, ground squirrels, rabbits or jack rabbits (and sometimes loose dogs as well) will chase those animals. And will chase them without paying any attention to cars, barbed wire fences, and other hazards. You can teach a greyhound how to cross barbed wire fences without getting hurt. But you cannot teach a greyhound how to cross streets at a full run without getting killed. The only way to keep them safe is to keep them on leash, to only let them run off leash in areas that are totally fenced.

Even your front yard can be a risky place. A local obedience judge had two of her obedience trained Whippets killed in front of her house when she let them out of her car off lead so that they could go into her house. All they had to do was cross the porch. There was a cat hidden near the porch and the dogs chased it into the street.

With that lesson in mind I regularly put my nine year old Sheena on leash to cross my yard from the car to the front door. She wasn't exactly an obedience natural, taking three years to earn her Companion Dog title, and I trained her for a couple of years at the open level before deciding she was getting too old to

do the jumps required by that class.

She had been through a lot of training, but that didn't help last Sunday night when I was walking her from the car to the front door with her leash in one hand, and a bag of groceries in the other. There was a cat sitting near our porch and she went for it, snatching the leash out of my hand and totally ignoring my calls to "Come." As she and the cat vanished into the dark they were heading for Madison Avenue, a very busy four lane expressway, five houses away. And while I was chasing her, several cars passed on my own street. It was a moment of absolute panic. She is my favorite dog and we have been through a lot together. She has slept curled up against my chest for her entire life. I didn't want her to end her life lying dead on Madison Avenue. But then my neighbor called out that she was behind me.

Having lost the cat, she was responding to my calls and came up to me. She had dead weeds caught on her face between her eyes and her nose. And her pads were torn from the asphalt. She was very pleased with herself. The leash was still attached. I wilted with relief and took her home. Sometimes we get lucky.

I have had greyhounds for twenty-five years and have never had a dog killed by a car. Partially that is due to my not trusting them off leash for a moment. What I do trust is that they will chase any cat, squirrel, rabbit, or dog that they see. So their running is limited to lure courses, and my fenced yard.

The stories of first time greyhound owners who trusted them off leash, only to have them killed by cars, are tragically frequent. The first law of greyhound care is that a greyhound in pursuit of prey will not obey your call to return to you. There has to be a better way to communicate this to new greyhound owners than to have them suffer the pain of having their first dog killed. One of the joys of owning a greyhound is to watch them run but one of challenges of owning them is to find ways for them to run safely.

Reprinted from Celebrating Greyhounds: The Magazine Winter 1996





Keeping Your Ex-Racing Greyhound

This article is meant to be a lesson. Not on adopting an ex-racer, but on keeping an ex-racer.

In October of 1995, we adopted Cassie, a three and a half year-old brindle female greyhound. She has quickly become a part of our family, and her personality has blossomed in her short time with us. One day while I was at work, I received a call from my mother-in-law, who lives with us. She was in tears, and told me that our five-year-old godchild Sarah, had accidentally let Cassie out. It seems Sarah opened the door and stood there for a moment too long. Cassie knew she could skirt past a little girl, and opted to do so.

Now, first let me say that when you adopt a greyhound through Greyhound Pets of America, they give you an orientation of the first degree. It's a thorough discussion of greyhound traits, needs, history, and statistics. One of the stats remained etched in my mind, and should remain etched in yours, too, if you own a greyhound. Here it comes:

"Seventy-five percent of greyhounds that run away are killed the first day. Ninety percent of those are killed in the first hour."

Greyhounds are not car smart. They've never had to be cautious of moving vehicles on the track, and know nothing of the danger a car poses. If a greyhound sees a fuzzy moving object running, be it a cat, rabbit, or even another dog, it most certainly will follow its inbred instinct to chase. This means across traffic lanes, too.

This was all I thought about as I left work immediately and drove home. I heard the statistic played over and over in my mind, and thought of the places I would search first. This is where my advice to you comes in.

When I walk Cassie, I always take her down to the end of my quiet cul-de-sac where there is a wooded glen. Bicycle trails wind through it, and sometimes runners and bikers will ride through. We always stick to the paved path, and we go the same route every time. The best part about it is, there are no cars there. The trail runs from my street, through the glen, and comes out into another cul-de-sac.

As you undoubtedly know, dogs are creatures of habit. Walk the dog the same route every day, and even if they get loose, they'll likely follow the same path. Force of habit. Plus, dogs aren't known for their ability to get from point A to point B without a lot of piddling around. They stop to sniff this, pee on that, check out the other thing. This is what saved Cassie. Her inclination toward screwing around. When I got home, I immediately got her leash and got in my truck. (Don't bother walking. Get to where you think they might be as fast as you can, and make a search. If you walk your greyhound on the street, then follow the route with the window down, calling the dog's name LOUD!) Now, I had to get out of my truck to go into the glen. I went down, ran almost all the way to the other cul-de-sac, and turned around. She wasn't there. I became very worried. The next thing I did was go back to my truck and drive to the other cul-de-sac. I parked at that side of the glen and got out. I looked and called, but didn't see her. Then, as a last hope, I ran inside the glen once more, and called her name, loud.

I heard a jingle. Her tags? I called again, and there she was, running toward me as fast as she could run!

She passed me, and I thought for sure she didn't want to be caught, that she would continue on to the street. I called her again in a panic. "Cassie! Come!"

She turned. I clapped my hands, and she charged toward me, passing me again as she ran back into the glen.

This time I called, "C'mon, Cassie! Good girl!"

She looked, and ran right to me, wagging her tail and looking a bit nervous. I'd left the leash in the truck, though, so I led her by the collar back to the truck. Taking no chances, I lifted the sixty pound beauty into my truck and as I drove her back home, I proceeded to lovingly scold her for scaring the daylights out of me!

Let me make this very clear. I was LUCKY to get her back. Part of my luck was taking her on a known route when I walked her, and keeping her off busy streets. If you must go on busy streets, use the sidewalk. If alone, your grey will likely do the same.

Cassie's sleeping on the floor behind me now. Now, she enjoys going to the dog park, her daily walks, and being with us. We're so glad she made it through her first (and last, I hope) adventure out alone. Please, watch these precious dogs carefully. They rely on you, not their better judgment, to keep them safe.

By Eric Shelman

Reprinted from the website **A Breed Apart** www.abap.org

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Trust - A Deadly Disease by Sharon Mathers

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 are inoculations. The disease is called TRUST.

You knew before you ever took your puppy home that it could not be trusted. The breeder who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. Puppies steal off counters, destroy anything expensive, chase cats, take forever to house train, and must never be allowed off lead!

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice of the breeder, you escorted your puppy to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand.

At home, the house was "puppy-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 of the living room to keep at least part of the house puddle free. All windows and doors had been properly secured, and signs placed in all strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR!"

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes .9 of 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 puppy becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less destruction, less breakage. Almost before you know it your gangly, slurpy puppy 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 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. And, 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 in a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. And, 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 a puppy. He would never think of running out of the door left open while you bring in packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out of 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 as broken as his still beautiful body.

The disease is TRUST. The final outcome — hit by a car.

Every morning my dog, Shah, bounced around off 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.

Oreo and Jammers Find a Home

What an incredible month it has been! When I think back and realize that thirty days ago, our family thought that our hearts and home were full. Indeed, with our small house and four children ranging in age from almost 11 to just turned 4, a 14 year old cat and three dwarf hamsters, we were overflowing with love!

But, since the death of our 14 year old Yorkie, Shelby, we had been missing something. A family of dog lovers with no dog! So the battle began - another yorkie, a schnauzer, a standard poodle - everyone had their opinion. I had once seen a friend's greyhound and admired it's beauty, so I suggested that we look into them. We found the GPA website, saw that a nearby storefront was starting in an hour, so we loaded up the family and headed over.

Laney, Jasper and Loveshack were only a few of the beautiful greys we met that day and we walked out SOLD! A unanimous family decision is indeed a miracle for us. Then we began our impatient wait. The Thanksgiving foster period was beginning and we couldn't make an appointment until afterwards. I poured over the website, read *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*, anything to pass time. My students in my Preschool class even voted on which dog I should get from pictures I printed from the website.

Finally, the foster period was over and my husband and I took off a day of work to go meet a few of the greyhounds who had already been returned from their foster homes. Armed with Christopher, our 4 year old "child friendly" tester, Nicole introduced us to gentle lovely Ginger, Cowpoke the charmer, Twister the personality, beautiful Folgers, bashful Iza, Jammers the wild child, and shy Oreo. We walked up and down the row wanting one to just speak up and say, "Take me!" When we left that day, we could have taken them all.

For anyone adopting for the first time, this is the hardest part of adoption. Faced with so many good choices, how do you choose? We came back that Saturday and just listened to our hearts. We left having adopted 82 pounds of shy, loving gentleness named Oreo. We knew we needed him as much as he needed us. We picked him up after his checkup on Dec. 6 and the joy he has brought us has been incredible. He is quiet, loving, perfect in every way, Momma's Boy. We couldn't ask for more, but as he comes out of his shell, he gives it. Christopher has thanked us daily for "his" dog and Lauren, our 6 year old, says, "It just feels right now!"

Now we are happily adding Jammers (yes, the wild

child) to our home after fostering her for Christmas. She is the exact opposite of Oreo - not shy, not quiet, not serene, but equally perfect and lovable. She is Daddy's girl. Having never been in a home at all, we laughed and laughed over her constant enthusiasm and curiosity. A high energy dog, Juliet and Katherine (our big girls) do a good job exhausting her.

The two complement each other beautifully. She brings out his silliness and he puts her in her place when needed. Watching them race, play and then rest together thrills us!

Needless to say, 153 pounds of love later, we've lost our bed and our couch, but our hearts and home are full.

Or could there be room for more?

Thank you GPA for you love for and dedication to these treasures! We are in you debt. The Lestage Family - David, Cindy, Juliet, Katherine, Lauren, Christopher, Smudge, Jammers and Oreo



Oreo



Jammers

Are you a new adopter with a story to share? We would love to publish it in our next newsletter. Just email it to newsletter@gpahouston.org. We all enjoy reading about how the pups are doing in their new homes.





Boy, here we are starting a new year! The website this past year has seen a lot of changes, and I am sure there will be many more changes a coming down the track in the year ahead....

We lit a number of candles this year on our Available Dogs page. (This is the expression that I use to designate a passing of one of our 4-legged critters. I put a flickering candle on the website, to show in respect, that a candle has been lit in honor of that dog's passing.) This year we had a number of dogs that developed complications during or just after surgery for there spay or neuter operation. Some of our dogs got loose while in foster care...and then the tragic fire in December that took the life of one of our fellow members, Tom Lehman and all of his animal family members, including 3 greyhounds, one of which was a December foster.

We added the capability for you to set up **memorial funds** — if you wanted to memorialize a family member or friend—or to gift GPA in honor of a child's graduation from high school, or birthday gift, etc. <http://www.gpahouston.org/donations.htm>

One of the changes: From now on, we will be showing only the dogs that are ready to go into their new forever home. Not until these new dogs have been "vetted" will they be shown on the website. This is something that has been discussed and voted upon by the Board of Directors.

We are developing a volunteer page that will show all of the various opportunities available to you. We will try to list all the things that your group needs in order to operate efficiently.

A Scrapbook Page has been started. This is a page where we can show folks some of the more interesting pictures of our greyhounds in our lives. Take a look, when you have a chance. And if you have a picture that you would like to share with others, please email to: scrapbook@gpahouston.org

In these past several months we have:

1] introduced our new Executive Director, Eliot Kabachnick! http://www.gpahouston.org/exec_director/NewDirector.htm

2] We introduced the new rating scale that we have started using on the website and at the shelter, called the **Greyhound Rating Scale (GRS)**

3] We added the capability to update your annual membership online. Noreen added the PayPal button to many spots on the website to make it as convenient as ever to donate to a greyt cause!

4] We tried to keep you up-to-date with the goings on in your greyhound family.....unfortunately including the announcement of the tragic December fire that took the life of one of our members, Tom Lehman and his animal family.

5] We have added some pictures to the website, thanks to Laura Marshall, of her Barnes and Noble Christmas Gift Wrapping. This is an annual event that this year was in five different Barnes and Noble Bookstores in the Houston, TX area. Several thousands of dollars is donated each year by the shoppers who have us wrap their purchases!

6] Education classes, championed by Janny Planting have given us some very interesting and enlightening Saturday mornings. Topics so far have been: First Aid, including CPR for Greyhounds, Bone and Muscle Injuries in Greyhounds, and the third class was the Life of the Racing Greyhound. (The typical training and life of the greyhound before going into retirement.) The New Year will undoubtedly add new topics that will add to our better understanding of these hounds. As we begin a New Year, we hope for more hounds in their forever homes, we hope for more new families to get the joy of having these creatures in their lives, and we hope for a safe and peaceful life for all of us.



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House Fire Tragedy

During the early morning hours of Sunday, December 16th, tragedy struck a member of our GPA/Houston family. Tom Lehman lost his life in an electrical fire at his home. The fire also took the lives of Tom's family of pets, which included his greyhounds Ozark and Rex, and Twister, a GPA dog that he was fostering for the Christmas period. Along with his greyhounds were several cats and his longtime companion dog from his postal years.

Tom has been a volunteer with GPA Houston for many years. He enjoyed coming into the kennel and spending time with the dogs and often volunteered to transport for vet appointments. Even in death, Tom was an advocate for greyhound adoption. His story was carried on several TV stations and his involvement with greyhound adoption was mentioned.

We have received several calls in the past few weeks from people who saw Tom's story on the news and wanted information on how to adopt a greyhound. Wouldn't Tom be happy?



How Long Does it Take to Fall In Love

In Memory of Pooky

Apparently, not that long. Although I only knew her for a very short while, Pooky will stay in my heart for a long time. Here's her story.

December 6th, we received a phone call from a lady who needed our help. She had adopted a greyhound several years ago and was in some trouble. The lady had recently been laid off and had no money, and Spooky had broken her leg. She was calling us for help. After speaking with Sharry, Evelyn offered to bring her to the vet to be checked. It was determined that she would need surgery to fix the leg. The lady had 2 options; put Spooky down or give her to GPA so that we could try to help her and then find a home for her. The lady relinquished her to us.

Evelyn had her for the night, but Spooky was in a lot of pain. So she took her to Bay Creek Veterinary Hospital to stay until her appointment with Dr. Herron. I picked her up on Wednesday afternoon so that I could drive her in the morning.

What a joy!!! Even with her leg in a split, she tried to jump into the back of my Rodeo. Then, she immediately lay down. She was a queen on her throne. Every now and then on the ride home, she would poke her head up and look at me, so that I could see her in the rear view mirror. I decided to change her name to Pooky as she wasn't a Spooky at all. She responded to it right away.

The next morning, we got up and drove to Aggieland Veterinary Hospital. I dropped her off around 8am and said that I would be back on Friday to pick her up after her surgery. I said good-bye and started my drive back home. I had just reached the Wal-mart parking lot when my cell phone rang. I recognized the number as Dr. Herron's. They

asked if she was my personal pet or belonged to GPA. I told them she was a GPA dog. They then asked me to hold so that I could talk to Dr. Herron. My heart sunk. He came on the phone and told me that she had osteosarcoma, a bone tumor, and that there wasn't much we could do....my heart broke. If GPA wanted to pay for it we could amputate the leg so that she could have 6 more months to live but that would be about it. This type of cancer usually comes back. I told him I would call him back so that I could talk to Sharry.

I called Sharry and could barely get the words out through the tears. We had hoped for the best but feared the worst. If the cancer didn't kill her the heartworms would. The best thing was to just let her go. I said I didn't want her to be alone and that I was on my way back there. This is where I enlisted Noreen. She had been through this with one of her own dogs and I knew that she would be a greyt support person for me, as I had never been through this before. We arrived at the vet and they brought us over to the hospital side of the clinic where they laid out a blanket for her and let us have some time together. She came out with her tail wagging and maybe even a little smile on her face. We gave her lots of loves and scratches. The vets told us to take our time....they were in no hurry. Then they brought out some food and water for her. She ate almost everything and drank every last drop of water there was. We let the vet know that we were ready. It was over in a few minutes. She was so peaceful just lying there. I let her know that she could go run again now, that she wouldn't be in any more pain, and that there were lots of friends for her at the bridge. It's been a couple of days now, I'm still thinking about her and tears still run down my cheeks as well. Even though I only knew her for a short time, I loved her as if she were my own. She's one that I will never forget. Nicole

In Memory of....

Hondo	The Slanis Family
Fern	The GPA Family
Carter	The GPA Family
Jigsaw	The Rich Family
Mickey	The Greene Family
Jet	The Devere Family
Ginger	The GPA Family
JuJu	The GPA Family
Twister	The GPA Family
Ozark	The Lehman Family
Rex	The Lehman Family
Jim	The GPA Family
Elvis	The Hart Family
Sealy	The Kothmann Family
Shadow	The White Family
Heidi	The Clements Family
Shelby	The Cox Family
Kiam	The Bartee Family
Stanley	The Maclaren Family
Joy	The Dockery Family
Chelsea	The Blackwelder Family
Blanco	The Mathew Family
Jill	The GPA Family



LETTER FROM YOUR PET IN HEAVEN

To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say.
But first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay.
I'm writing this from the Bridge.
Here I dwell with God above.
Here there's no more tears of sadness
Here is just eternal love.
Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight.
Remember that I am with you every morning, noon and night.
That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through,
God picked me up and hugged me
and He said, "I welcome you. It's good to have you back again;
you were missed while you were gone. As for your dearest family,
They'll be here later on."
God gave me a list of things that he wished for me to do.
And foremost on the list, was to watch and care for you.
And when you lie in bed at night the day's chores put to flight,
God and I are closest to you...in the middle of the night.
When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving years,
because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears.
But do not be afraid to cry: it does relieve the pain.
Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain.
I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned.
If I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.
But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is o'er.
I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before.
There are rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb;
But together we can do it by taking one day at a time.
It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too;
That as you give unto the world, the world will give to you.
If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and pain;
Then you can say to God at night... "My day was not in vain."
And now I am contented... that my life was worthwhile.
Knowing as I passed along I made somebody smile.
God says: "If you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low;
Just lend a hand to pick him up, as on your way you go.
When you're walking down the street with me on your mind;
I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind."
"And when it's time for you to go... from that body to be free.
Remember you're not going...
you're coming here to me."

Author Unknown

CLASS OF 2001

Marcus	The Stokes Family	Classy	The Gelbmann Family	Sam	The Beutell Family
Destiny	The Wade Family	Keely	The Ingraham Family	Tammy	The Swift Family
Tippy	The Metaxas Family	Ditta Ditta	The Duran-Oliver Family	Heat	The Klug Family
Beau	The Stewart Family	Devotion	The Yoder Family	Brindle	The Audas Family
Sweet Pea	The Planting Family	Bandit	The Kelley Family	Zoey	The Flores Family
Jazz	The Smith Family	Cleo	The Gilleland Family	Ally	The Xavier Family
Trip	The Nowak Family	Cool	The Bauman Family	Luv Notes	The Jones Family
Weebit	The Cormier Family	Guy	The Nispel Family	Little Red	The Binnebose Family
Traveller	The Stiffel Family	Bo	The Puls Family	Showgirl	The Murray Family
Atlas	The Gibson Family	Freeway	The Pearlman Family	Sunny	The Potts Family
Bob	The Cureton family	Jewel	The Villines Family	Jeremiah	The Kurimski Family
Buzz	The Solis Family	Joe	The Jorczak Family	Dazzle	The New Family
Prince	The Coe Family	Keeper	The Hernandez Family	Colors	The Staffa Family
Charlie	The Mucha Family	Lacy	The Ruen Family	Tank	The Summers Family
Harley	The Orr Family	Hooks	The George Family	Docker	The Johnson Family
Brandy	The Duncan Family	Sara	The Bridwell Family	Vacheron	The Moore Family
Heart	The Jackson Family	Tammy	The Nelson Family	Brenda	The Mottershaw Family
Casey	The Deville Family	Win	The Silata Family	Hollyberry	The Murray Family
Betty Rae	The Anderson Family	Savana	The Cockerham Family	Darby	The Reid Family
Scooby Do	The Morrison Family	Ditto	The Ingram Family	Denny	The Reid Family
Tonto	The MacDonald Family	Cowboy	The Moran Family	Rusty	The Neitman Family
Mya	The Hester Family	Tootsie	The Planting Family	Sleeper	The Jamison Family
Grayson	The Timm Family	Ace	The Gill Family	Shy	The Boles Family
Starla	The Rowe Family	Reebok	The Elder Family	Sparky	The Duncan Family
Dante	The Baranowski Family	Pacer	The Vance Family	Flashy	The Hall Family
Zoey	The Hallman Family	Magic	The Collamer family	Trouble	The De Haas Family
Lucy	The Wehrman Family	Cole	The Davis Family	Honey	The De Haas Family
Buford	The Papai Family	Blue	The Parsons Family	Willie	The Neitman Family
Pete	The Newberry Family	Billie	The Radich Family	George	The Baker Family
Bandit	The Malone Family	Alfredo	The Duke Family	Raven	The Harrison Family
Cinnamon	The Solis Family	Michele	The Reading Family	Ruth	The Smith Family
Toby	The Malone Family	Moody Blue	The Audas Family	Trisha	The Goldstein Family
Blazer	The Clifford Family	Cookie	The Ballard Family	Corky	The Wibel Family
Athena	The Thompson Family	Luke	The Bear Family	Rose	The Puls Family
Jellybean	The Taylor Family	Venice	The Pettit Family	Lady	The Jartzold Family
Clyde	The Burdick Family	Sprite	The Olsen Family	Toby	The Jones Family
Tricky	The Carpenter Family	Shakespeare	The Malone Family	Racer	The Zent Family
Zipper	The Puls Family	Single	The Baeza Family	Shadow	The Liebenberg Family
Fancy	The Krampen Family	Mario	The Garrison Family	Paso	The Dearman Family
Jodie	The Novotny Family	Honey	The Rowe Family	Bullet	The Spurlock Family
JoJo	The Beall Family	Annie	The Rennpage Family	Spirit	The O'Malley Family
Jetta	The Smith Family	Winnie	The Totten Family	Melina	The Frey Family
Gent	The Chesterfield Family	King	The Malone Family	Boo	The Boyling Family
Betty	The Kramer Family	Marge	The Lantz Family	Pistol	The Dear Family
Jay	The Goldman Family	Speedy	The Malone Family	Brutus	The Read Family
Buster	The Dumesnil Family	Uppity	The Thomas Family	Windshear	The Rexroad Family
Spike	The Dockery Family	Willie Boy	The Watson Family	Dusty	The Slanis Family
Angel	The Hefpner Family	Casey	The Vaught Family	Junior	The Davis-Fletcher Family
Skipper	The Joachim Family	Van	The Sonsel Family	Spinner	The Merada Family
Banana Boat	The Ellsworth Family	Kim	The Sonsel Family	Cabang	The Baisden Family
Grace	The Stenioen Family	Doc	The Lippincott Family	Misty	The Ingraham Family
Paige	The Smith Family	Charlie	The Hembree Family	Cara	The Nachenberg Family
Dory	The Fisher Family	Buckwheat	The Schaefer Family	Caesar	The Johnston family
Patsy	The Duncan Family	Red	The Cameron Family	Cosmo	The Stamley Family
Lightfoot	The Hunter Family	Jin	The Miessler Family	Guitar	The Neitman Family
Shadow	The Jackson Family	Rider	The Kalhorn Family	Hugo	The Vukadin Family
Jodie	The Jackson Family	Buck	The Rhodes Family	Braveheart	The Davis-Fletcher Family
Mattie	The Heller Family	Bandit	The Hefpner Family	Belagio	The Garcia Family
Mugs	The Harmsen Family	Cloud	The Wright Family	Brandy	The Swift Family
Flint	The Stewart Family	Misty	The Betancourt Family	Flash	The Summers Family
Amber	The Blackwelder Family	Edith Ann	The Price Family	Douglas	The Harman Family
Saga	The Guest Family	Pamela	The Murphy Family	Oreo	The Lestage Family
Sugarbear	The Szyzkowski Family	Buster	The Gray Family	Mystie	The Yager Family
Honey	The Merada Family	Annie	The Cook Family	Dexter	The Skolarki Family
Berni	The Fogler Family	Burner	The Littles Family	Bandit	The Kurimski Family
Corky	The Hughes Family	Charge	The Chenault Family	Kahlua	The Playfair Family
Galaxy	The Price Family	Gratified	The Colfer Family	Annie	The Williams family
Downing	The Hughes Family	Bubbs	The Bolton Family	Bryan	The Tucker Family
Missy	The Comstock Family	Sassy	The Tardy Family	JJ	The Brown Family
Ellie	The Montoya Family	Dolly	The Smith Family	Dutch	The Farnsworth Family
Kyser	The Swift Family	Abby	The Powell Family		

GPA/Houston Vet Network

VET NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, ST	ZIP	PHONE
Dr. Taffi Tippet	2028 Bissonnett	Houston, TX	77005	(713) 520-8743
Dr J M Brasher	12661 Memorial Dr	Houston, TX	77005	(713) 527-0489
Dr James Bray	2348 Rice Blvd	Houston, TX	77005	(713) 527-0489
Dr Susan Pickle	1701 Montrose Blvd	Houston, TX	77006	(713) 524-3814
Drs. Vining, Werner, Teller, Golden, Morrow	4995 W Bellfort	Houston, TX	77035	(713) 723-8612
Dr Glen Reiger	7151 Fairbanks N Houston	Houston, TX	77040	(713) 937-7274
Drs. Tharp, Hayes & Glass	2215 S Voss Rd	Houston, TX	77057	(713) 782-1500
Dr. Lisk & Janney	1616 Clear Lake City Blvd	Houston, TX	77062	(281) 480-8800
Drs. Kuecker & Richardson	14870 Space Center Blvd S	Houston, TX	77062	(281) 282-9944
Drs. Mousser & Stiles	2717 Rockyridge	Houston, TX	77063	(713) 783-4044
Drs. Peggy Huckabee	3031 FM 1960 W	Houston, TX	77068	(281) 444-1084
Drs. McLaughton & Simpson	6703 FM 1960 W	Houston, TX	77069	(281) 444-4170
Drs. James Fix & Jon Brooke	14465 Memorial Dr	Houston, TX	77079	(281) 493-1919
Dr. Robert Pacher	3645 FM 1960 E	Humble, TX	77338	(281) 852-2081
Dr Diana Blessman	3425 W Lake Houston Pwy	Kingwood, TX	77339	(281) 360-5550
Dr Phillip Elmer	FM 1314	Porter, TX	77365	(281) 354-8099
Dr. Bob Rogers	5703 Louetta	Spring, TX	77379	(281) 370-3262
Dr Max Heimlich	16116 Stuebner-Airline, St 7	Spring, TX	77379	(281) 376-2505
Dr Tony McCall	153 Cypresswood Dr	Spring, TX	77388	(281) 350-3730
Drs. Hugo, Warren, McCaily & Rogge	15575 Southwest Freeway	Sugarland, TX	77478	(281) 491-8387
Dr. Steven Hibler	23144 Cinco Ranch Dr	Katy, TX	77494	(281) 693-7387
Dr Deb Cunningham	2535 Cartwright Rd	Missouri City, TX	77549	(281) 261-7953
Dr. Hoffman & Mogas	1236 E Main	League City, TX	77573	(281) 332-3051
Dr Roof	3942 Nasa Road 1	Seabrook, TX	77586	(281) 324-2576
Dr. Pat Choyce	959 S Mason Rd	Katy, TX	77450	(281) 579-7083
Dr. Longford	202 W San Augustine	Deer Park, TX	77536	(281) 479-0405
Dr. Ken Osburne	15812 Champion Forest Dr	Spring, TX	77379	(281) 376-2273
Dr. Keadle	15703 E Longenbaugh	Houston, TX	77095	(281) 856-7023
Dr. Debra Garrison	22732 Cypresswood Dr	Spring, TX	77373	(281) 443-2626
Dr JP Hauke	3429 Hwy 6	Sugarland, TX	77478	(281) 980-8387
Drs. Green and Dunn	17740 Kuykendhal	Spring, TX	77379	(281) 353-5700
Dr. Melanie Walker	31315 FM 2920 Ste 12	Waller, TX	77484	(936) 372-9121
Dr. Williams	1320 South Major Dr	Beaumont, TX	77707	(409) 866-8208
Drs. Karen Metzler & William O'Brien	11430 Telge Rd	Cypress, TX	77429	(281) 955-9797
Dr. Alice Frei	6902 Stella Link	Houston, TX	77025	(713) 349-0718
Drs Bolleter, Jensen, Batra & Kiker-Henderson	5910 FM 1960 E #5	Humble, TX	77346	(281) 852-8398
Drs. Milan and Chandlen	704 Wilcrest Dr	Houston, TX	77042	(713) 781-3770
Drs. Ping and Teboe	721 Fm 359 Rd	Richmond, TX		(281) 342-1117



Special Needs Update



Smokey came to us from Houston Animal Control in October, 2001. She has no tattoos and it is doubtful that she is an NGA greyhound. She was taken into foster care to try to add some weight and heal up her "happy tail". It became obvious, after a few days, that she had other problems. After a

trip to the vet and many tests, she was diagnosed with Ehrlichiosis, a tick born disease. She has been receiving treatment and was on the road to recovery, when she started gaining too much weight around the middle. After another trip to the vet, it was discovered that she was pregnant with at least 10 puppies. The situation was complicated by the fact that further tests showed that she was heartworm positive with evidence of heart damage. It was decided that it would be in her best interest to terminate the pregnancy. Smokey recovered very quickly from her surgery and should be receiving the first part of her split heartworm treatment by the end of January. If all goes well she should be available for adoption by the end of February.

Featured Grey...Sue



Sue is a 6 year old black female that has been with GPA Houston since June of 2001. Before coming to us she was the breeder's pet. Sue is a bundle of personality. She likes to let everyone know that she is around,

what a talker. She gets along well with other dogs, but would rather not have any cats around. She loves to be petted and will seek out attention. What a packrat! If there is a toy, towel or paper around it will soon find its way to Sue's kennel.

Sue still needs some work on potty training. Although she has shown improvement in her foster homes, she still continues to have accidents. It is hoped that with a permanent, stable home she will settle in and learn the proper place for pottyng. Sound like Sue might be the pup for you? Come on down to the kennel and visit this special little girl.

Calendar

IVAS International Veterinary Acupuncture Society
Dogs needed for demonstration purposes.
Contact Lee (lee@gpahouston.org) for more information

Jan 24	2:30 -6:45
Jan 26	2:00 - 6:15
Feb. 21	3:00 - 7:00
Feb 23	3:00-7:00
March 23	no time yet
March 24	no time yet

Bring Your Hound to the Pound Animal Health Fair

March 3

St Patrick's Day Parade

March 16

Easter Hoopla

March 24

GPA National Convention, Las Vegas

July 26,27,28

Identity Crisis

Does your dog suffer from an identity crisis? Have you checked your dogs tags lately? Has the engraving worn off where it not readable? Did you forget to buy an ID tag with your personal information on it? Does your dog still have his/her GPA tag? If so is it still readable? Do you have any non-GPA greyhounds? Do they have GPA tags? If not, you can contact us and get a new one. Last thing, is your dog's collar still in good shape so you have someplace to place the tags. You can contact GPA for a new collar too!

Membership Renewal

Many thanks to all who have renewed their GPA membership. If you haven't done so yet, please do so as soon as possible. It is very important for us to have up to date information on you and your dogs incase of any emergencies.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the form and send in or you may fill out the form on-line by going to our website (www.gpahouston.org) and clicking on Resources.

We would like to thank everyone that has joined at a premium level and also those who have included an extra donation with their membership forms. Your help is greytly appreciated.

ANNUAL ADOPTION QUESTIONNAIRE AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

GPA/Houston, Inc. P.O. Box 741176 Houston, TX 77274-1176 713 667-3804 / 713 866-4466

Completion of this annual questionnaire by each greyhound adopter is required per GPA/Houston's Adoption Application. This information is essential for the benefit of you and your greyhound(s). Please return the completed form by mail to the above address, or bring it to the adoption center. Please make a copy of this form if you have more than four greyhounds.

Owner's Name(s) _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work Phone (1) _____ Work Phone (2) _____ Home Phone _____

Please check here if this is a new address.

Other Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Occupation (1) _____ Employer _____

Occupation (2) _____ Employer _____

Greyhound's Name _____ Age _____ GPA ID Tag # _____

Greyhound's Name _____ Age _____ GPA ID Tag # _____

Greyhound's Name _____ Age _____ GPA ID Tag # _____

Greyhound's Name _____ Age _____ GPA ID Tag # _____

Has your greyhound experienced any health and or behavioral problems during the past year? If yes, please provide brief explanation. Use separate page if needed _____

Name and address of your veterinarian: _____

What is the brand name of the heartworm preventative your greyhound receives? _____

I am renewing my GPA/Houston Membership for 2002. (If you adopted after October, your dues are paid for 2002)

\$25 Member \$50 Supporting \$75 to \$150 Benefactor \$200 to \$500 Angel \$1,000 Saint

Payment Information Check Visa Mastercard

VISA or Mastercard # _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____

As a member, I would like to help the greyhounds by:

Volunteering at the kennel Being a holiday or as needed foster home.

Transporting greyhounds to vet Participating in storefront/events in my area.

Other: (Please list any special skills you may have that may benefit our organization.)

I am enclosing a tax deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____

Please apply this donation to:

The building fund Special Needs medical fund Food for the greyhounds General Operating expenses

My employer offers a Matching Gift Program. Please contact me at _____.

The greyhounds appreciate your continued support. Thank-you.

GPA/Houston, Inc.
P. O. Box 741176
Houston, TX 77274



713-866-4466
www.gpahouston.org

Adopt A Greyhound