

1st Quarter, 2003

On The Right Track

inside

Calendar of Events	3
Featured Dogs	5
2002 Adoptions	7
Tigger Tells All	8
What's in those Blood Tests	10
Greyhound Vet Network.....	12
Foods to Avoid	14

Our President

Letter From

It's New Year's Eve and I am trying to write something inspiring for the newsletter. It's been a very busy year. Last year I said we would have some changes and we have. We welcome new board members – Becky Vance, Dave Johnson, Evelyn Gilleland,

Returning board members, Ann Slanis, Cheri Duncan, Julie Rowe, Lee Edgington, Noreen Reid and Tim Heller. We have a new Executive Director – Nicole Butler. All of whom you have met at the kennel, storefronts, special events and our greyhound parties.

We have had a number of new greyhounds come in this year and find new homes. We have also had a number of our greyhounds cross over the Rainbow Bridge. Many of our board members have shared in this grief with greys of their own crossing over too. This part is always sad to report especially during the holidays. It is never easy to accept but is part of having a pet in your life. This newsletter is dedicated to keeping your grey healthy and some suggestion on what do to when there are health problems.

If you are asking yourself what can you do to help get more greyhounds adopted this year there are lots of things to do. Always carry brochures, as

you never know when you might meet a potential adopter. Brochures are available at the office. It is so exciting to see the new families get involved with our storefronts and special events. Our "Volunteer of the Year Award 2002" was presented to Janny Planting at the Annual Meeting in October. Any of you who have worked at the kennel have met and know her dedication to our greyhounds.

Please remember that you are always welcome to come any board meeting and express your concerns or tell us what you like that is happening in GPA Houston. Without the wonderful volunteers we would not be able to have a successful program. We are always striving to improve and are looking for suggestions from you the members. We will continue to raise money for our building fund and work toward building our own kennel.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to wish you and your greyhounds a Happy New Year.

Contact Information

Officers:

President: Sharry MacLaren
sharry@gpahouston.org

Vice President: Cheri Duncan
cheri@gpahouston.org

Secretary: Julie Rowe
Julie@gpahouston.org

Treasurer: Ann Slanis
ann@gpahouston.org

Directors:

Lee Edgington lee@gpahouston.org
Tim Heller tim@gpahouston.org
Noreen Reid noreen@gpahouston.org
Dave Jahson davej@gpahouston.org
Jeannie Wehrman Jeannie@gpahouston.org
Evelyn Gilleland evelyn@gpahouston.org
Kavita Stenoien kavita@gpahouston.org
Becky Vance becky@gpahouston.org

Executive Director Nicole Butler
nicole@gpahouston.org

Vol. Coordinator: Janny Planting
janny@gpahouston.org
Julie Rowe
julie@gpahouston.org

Newsletter Editor: Noreen Reid
noreen@gpahouston.org

For communication with the Board of Directors,
please direct e-mail to board@gpahouston.org.

Shelter Office: 713-667-3804

For Emergencies: 713-866-4466 (Answering Service)

On The Right Track is a quarterly publication of GPA/Houston, Inc. Deadlines are April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1. Items to be considered for publication may be sent to newsletter@gpahouston.org or Newsletter Committee, P. O. Box 741176, Houston, TX 77274-1176. Newsletter Committee has the right to review all material submitted for content and clarity. Newsletter subscriptions are available to non-members for \$30 per year.

Contributors: Noreen Reid, Sharry MacLaren, Jeannie Wehrman, Cathrine Coulter, Becky Vance, Nicole Butler

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 Julie Rowe 832-265-7426
julie@gpahouston.org

Area 5 Area south and east of Houston, from Pasadena down to Galveston.
Coordinator Tom Miller 281 218-0836
enpaix@evl.net

Area 6 Cities southwest of Houston (Sugarland, Stafford, Missouri City, etc.)
Coordinator Jeannine Crowe 281-499-1759

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 Diana Ballard 281-367-5014
dballard13@juno.net

Area 9 Kingwood
Coordinator Joanne Timm 281 299-4448
joanne@gpahouston.org

Area 10 Beaumont Area
Coordinator Donna Williams
peabody54@hotmail.com

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

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact Info
January 18-19 11:00 - 5:00	Pet Fest	Old Town Spring	Volunteers needed with their hounds for 1 or 2 hour shift, depending on the weather, sharry@gpahouston.org
February 7-8-9	Texas Home and Garden Show	Reliant Hall	Evelyn@gpahouston.org
April 25-May 4	Houston International Festival	Downtown Houston	Contact Cathryn coulterc@houston.rr.com
May 9,10,11	Greyhound Gathering Kanab, Utah	Kanab, Utah	http://www.greyhoundgang.com/events/gath2-002.html
June, 2003	Abilene Greyhound Gathering	Abilene, Kansas	
June 2003	Great Lakes Greyhound Gathering	St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, Michigan	http://www.glgg.org/

Volunteer Opportunities

Pet Fest, January 18-19 Old Town Spring

We will have a booth in Old Town Spring during this years Pet Fest We will have either one or two hour shifts depending on the weather. This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about our wonderful greyhounds. Two dogs will be needed for each shift. Please contact Sharry if you would like to volunteer. (sharry@gpahouston.org)

Houston Home and Garden Show Feb 7,8,9

This is an event that GPA has been attending for many years. We need about 50 volunteers to help in the GPA booth. Vounterrs with and without dogs will be needed to answer questions and hand out literature about our 4-legged friends! Please email Evelyn (evelyn@gpahouston.org) to sign up for a shift.

Houston International Festival April 26 - May 4

This is one of the largest events that GPA Houston participates in, with over 500,000 people expected to attend. Last year we had a wonderful shady location and drew lots and lots of attention. We will need many volunteer both with and without dogs. This year's theme centers around Mexico. Keep watching the webpage and bulletin board for futher information. To sign up for a shift or for additional information contact Catherine coulterc@houston.rr.com

Kennel Volunteers

In addition to the above events we are always in need of kennel volunteers, both on weekends and during the week. If you would like to help out, contact Janny (janny@gpahouson.org) or fill out on on-line volunteer application.

GPA/Houston Regularly Scheduled Events

Date	Location	Time	Contact	Place
1st Sun	Sugarland Storefront	1-3 pm	Jeannine Jeannine@gpahouston.org	PETSMART: 16758 SW Freeway
1st Sun	Houston Storefront	1-3 pm	Janny janny@gpahouston.org	PETCO: Hwy 6North / FM529
1st Sun	The Woodlands Storefront	1-3 pm	Martha martha@gpahouston.org	PETSMART: I-45 south of 242
2nd Sat.	Houston Storefront	1-3 pm	Laura laura@gpahouston.org	PETSMART:19945 Katy Freeway
2nd Sat.	Houston Storefront	12-2 pm	Cheri cheri@gpahouston.org	PETCO: 2110 S. Shepherd near San Felipe
2nd Sun	Houston Storefront	1-3 pm	Marti marti@gpahouston.org	PETSMART: I-45 and FM 1960
2nd Thurs.	GPA Houston Board Meeting	6:30 - 8:30 pm	board@gpahouston.org	Monthly board meetings take place at the Pet Hotel. All members are invited to attend.
2nd Sun	Webster Storefront	2-4:30 pm	Tom enpaix@ev1.net	PETSMART:1549 West Bay Area Blvd.
3rd Sat	Beaumont Storefront	1-3 pm	Donna peabody54@hotmail.com	PETSMART: 6430 Eastex Freeway
3rd Sun	Houston Storefront	1-3 pm	Marti marti@gpahouston.org	PETSMART: 10500 Old Katy Freeway
3rd Sun	Houston Storefront	1-3 pm	Kim Kim@gpahouston.org	PETSMART: Willowchase FM249
4th Sun	Houston Storefront	2-4 pm	Tim tim@gpahouston.org	PETCO: 12015 Northwest Frwy- 43rd St @ Hwy 290
4th Sun	Webster Storefront	2-4:30 pm	Tom enpaix@ev1.net	PETSMART: 1549 West Bay Area Blvd.
Last Sun	Spring Walk in the Park and Run in the Ballfield	9:00 - ????	Noreen noreen@gpahouston.org	Elizabeth Kaiser Meyer Park- Steuber-Airline & Cypresswood Dr.

Featured Dog

The good news is....Hank, the dog we had planned on featuring in this issue was adopted last week. He was adopted by a wonderful family and we know they will all be very happy together.

In the last issue of the newsletter we featured Lance and Mac and as many of you already know, Mac was adopted a few weeks ago and is busy ruling the roost at his new home. Congratulations to Mac and his new family. Lance is still waiting to find his forever home.

Our new featured dog is Storm. He is a 10 year old dark brindle male that was brought in to the kennel along with his house mate a little girl named Phoebe. She was adopted a few months ago, but Storm is still waiting to find a new home.

Storm is originally from the United Kingdom, which may explain why he is such a gentleman. He is wonderful with children and adults but can not be trusted around small dogs or cats. He would do very well as an only dog and has perfect house manners. Anyone out there have room for this handsome senior? He is waiting patiently at the kennel, dreaming of his new home. Why not come down for a visit.



Holiday Giftwrapping Totals

We had a very good year for our gift wrappings, including a new adventure at Casual Corner in the Willowbrook Mall. A special thanks go out to all that arranged these and to all the volunteers that participated. A grand total of \$3228.27 was made at Barnes and Noble stores in West Oaks, Bay Area Blvd, Champions and at Casual Corner. It will buy a lot of food for the upcoming year. Thank-you again to all that volunteered this Christmas season.

Thank you Foster Families

To everyone who fostered on Thanksgiving and/or Christmas, thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart. It takes a whole lot of people, (who are willing to share their home and heart with a greyhound who is still waiting for their forever family), to take one or two of our grey babies home for the holidays, so that we can live up to our part of the bargain with Best Friends Pet Hotel, and give them back their space for the holidays. The bonus in this process is that these wonderful greyhounds get the opportunity to learn about living in a home, and they get so much day to day training in the process, that it makes them even more adoptable, and we also now have foster home reports to share with people who are wanting to become greyhound parents. I know some of you heard from me several times over the pre-holiday period as Nicole and I were trying to put together enough homes for the greys, and I really appreciate your patience, and your help. To those who have adopted their foster greys (or are thinking about it), congratulations on your new family members, both you and your greyhounds are truly blessed. I'll give you all a break for a few months now, as far as holiday fostering, but please remember that we are always in need of short term fostering, and we deeply appreciate everyone who fosters, regardless of how long that foster period is. We have had a whole lot of greyhounds who have been waiting for us to have the space to bring them in, so we will fill up again quickly. Thank you all so much.

Jeannie



Many thanks to Go-Data for printing and mailing out our newsletter. Your help is greytly appreciated.

ARE YOU WILLING TO SHARE YOUR MARKETING/FUNDRAISING EXPERTISE TO HELP GPA BUILD A "HOME FOR THE HOUNDS"?

In December your board of directors established a new "Marketing/Fundraising Committee" to begin developing a strategic marketing plan for GPA. This committee will be comprised of volunteers who have experience in any of the following areas: fundraising, public/media relations, marketing, sales, grant writing. The goals for this committee are to: increase awareness of GPA; increase the number of vets in our vet network; and increase revenue. All of these goals will help move us closer to our goal of having our own kennel.

These are lofty goals and we cannot do it without you! Please consider how your talents might be utilized to help us find a "home for the hounds". Our first committee meeting will be held in January. For more information please contact Becky Vance at 281-208-2890 or via e-mail at [whatever my e-mail address is for GPA]. The rewards of participating are GREYT!

In Memory of....

Our deepest sympathies to those who have recently lost their greyhound. May your memories bring a smile to your face.

Sally	The Mitchell Family
Tigger	The Deschepper Family
Hattie	The Harmson Family
Cerlum	The GPA Family
Danny	The Moon Family
Ivory	The Edgington Family
Maggie	The Wehrman Family
Dino	The King Family
Buddy	The Chesterfield Family
Chadley	The Barcello Family
Dylon	The Schultea Family



Special Needs

As the new year begins, we have another very special thank you to make. Over the past year many dogs have been featured on our Special Needs page on the Website. The majority were heartworm positive or needed treatment for broken legs.

Our membership has always answered the call when asked to help these special pups and as of the writing of this article, the medical needs of all of our special needs dogs have been met. What a wonderful way to start out the New Year.

We have established an Emergency Special Needs fund for people to donate to when they prefer not to choose a specific dog or if no special needs dogs are listed at the time. Money in this fund will be used to cover emergency medical expenses for our kennel dogs.

Tragically, this year, we lost one of our kennel dogs to an embolism after surgery for bloat. The medical expenses were high, but as always our membership pitched in and helped to raise the money needed. Because of this, we can continue to help those dogs in need. Not all adoption groups are lucky enough to be able to take in sick and injured dogs and give them the best possible treatment. Because of the generosity of our members and other friends around the country, we can continue to help the dogs most in need.

Please keep watching the special needs page, there will be more pups in need of your help soon.



In Memory of Cerlum
November 2002



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, please email the information to newsletter@gpahouston.org

Congratulations to all the greyhounds that have found their forever homes in the year 2002. There were 218 greyhounds that found homes last year. Let's hope that more find their homes this year.

Congratulations again to all the greyhounds and their new families.

Melva	Shadow	Blacky	Delila	Star	Ante	Bengal	Rex
Jammers	Libby	Fritzi	Mimi	Dodge	Big Easy	Sue	Ivy
Homer	Dharma	Phoenix	Sue	Paul	Cool	Handsome	Phoebe
Jack	Boudin	Smurf	Kismet	Annie	Maverick	Micki	Monk
Surprise	Folgers	Sundance	Dasher	Merlin	Chico	Classic	Gateway
Doug	Beau	Andy	Paso	Charm	Groucho	Smokey	Cool
Rudy	Brenda Lee	Helga	Big Foot	Lil Girl	Brenda	Nebo	Elsie
Terry Don	Ragie	Strawboss	Angel	Smokin	Jewel	Jenny	Racer
Arthur	Lady	Dare	Traveler	Cleveract	Teabear	Seabreeze	Corky
Wendy	Me Neither	Big Girl	Chase	Princess Lynn	Sandy	Paulie	Seth
Pork Chop	Rusty	Katy	Joking	Captain	Whiz	Blake	Prophet
Hardy	Buckskin	Casino	Lulu	Beau	Moody Blue	Little One	Infantry
Dan	Goose	Cheap Trick	New Boots	Nina	Carrie	Jody	Sable
Bonair	Beavo	Pappa Dutch	Funny Girl	Jake	Gracie	Midnite	Brownie
King	Copper	Amaretto	Mackenzie	Sadie	Dino	Ricky	Slick
Chevaree	Rodoe	Quicker	Conan	Meg	Harley	Renegade	Jamie
Cowpoke	Buster	Raisin	Elevate	Becka	Pamela	Ruby	Pasha
Shadow	Patin Dance	Lori	Storm	Lexi	Joey	Dru	Lily
Blackjack	Thomas	Mary	Blaise	Justin	Whitney	Tigger	Mac
Showgirl	Pam	Pebbles	Clara	Promise	Mailman	Prozac	Trouble
Angel	Dakota	Style	Edition	Lucky	Willy	Violet	Blair
Sarge	Phoebe	Texas Flood	Howie	Smeagol	Mimi	Justice	
Foxy	Dolly	Wolf	Rockette	Shorty	Champ	Valentine	
Blackjack	Gracie	Dagger	Amy		Belle	TC	
					Lauren		

Membership Renewal

If you have not done so already please remember to fill out and send in your membership renewal form. It is vital that we have up to date information about you and your grey in case of an emergency. You would be amazed how often we receive a phone call about a found greyhound before we know he is even lost. Having up to date information help us to reunite the lost greyhound with his worried family quickly.

The membership renewal form is located on the last page of this newsletter or you can fill it out on line from our webpage. www.gpahouston.org.



Boogie (Switzler Boogie) who turned 13 on June 6. She has been with us since she was 3 1/2 yrs old after racing with some success, mostly in Corpus Christi. She never missed a beat moving to retirement, and has been a great companion.

The Canton Family

Tigger Tells All

(Tigger is a 3-year-old brindle male who lives with two male greyhounds, Georgie and Merlin, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, and two human servants.)

When I found out that this newsletter was about greyhound health issues, I knew I was destined to expand my literary career from an occasional piece on the bulletin board to a major article on one of my personal issues—mental health. I am eminently qualified on this subject because I am a recovering Shy Dog with a number of Mental Health Issues. Unfortunately there are a number of us out there who suffer from this crippling mental condition, but I am proof that we can recover and I offer my story and my advice to encourage more humans to adopt us.

I first saw The Man and The Woman a year ago when they came to Gulf Greyhound Park to get a greyhound to replace their female Nicky who died after a long and happy life. They had narrowed their choice to two when, to my horror, The Man spotted me hiding in my crate and asked to have me brought out. Dragged out by main force, I followed my customary habit and ran in the corner, attempting to bury my head in the concrete and shaking. All I wanted was for these horrible people to leave so I could return to the safety of my crate. Imagine my shock when a short time later I was pulled from my home again, put in a car, and found myself trapped with two apparently insane humans going who knew where.

Those first days were dark days. At that time The Man and Woman had an elderly big furry dog in addition to the little fluffy dog who shares my home to this day. They would both come to the door of the crate and try to talk to me. Little Fluffy told me later that all I could say was “scared, scared, scared.” They thought about putting me on suicide watch when I wouldn’t eat or drink for three days. To make matters worse, in my debilitated mental state I broke from The Man as we approached the house from a walk (terrified by, of all things, a garbage can); and, although they got me back relatively unharmed in a couple of hours, I was then able to add terror of streets and outside to all my other fears.

Some ten days went by with my hiding in the crate, eating in the crate, cowering in the crate, when The Woman decided it was time for shock therapy. She came home with a new bed with very high sides, a bunch of toys, and then she Took Away My Crate. At first I thought it was all over for me. Then I discovered I could hide my head in the bed and it wasn’t so bad. I actually started enjoying watching everyone else, as long as they wouldn’t try to look directly at me. It was also more convenient for The Man and Woman to sit by the bed and talk to me.

By this time my customary robust appetite had returned, and it was a lot easier for them to toss treats in my direction. Treats are the Prozac of spooky dogs. Not only did they inundate me with treats, they made sure that everyone who came to the house tossed me treats. Gradually they would shorten the distance so I would have to get out of my bed and come near them. Finally I noticed that they had extra treats in their hands and if I came close I could get more treats straight from the source. It was several days before I realized they had tricked me into taking food from their hands, but by then it seemed pointless to make an issue of it.

Some two weeks after the Horrid Garbage Can Adventure, they decided to take me to the park. Initially, I was entirely opposed to this outing. I didn’t mind riding in the car, but the walk to the driveway (about thirty feet) was really scary. When we got the park, I was terrified until I saw that wonderful sight for a Shy Dog—other greyhounds. Of course, when the fun was over there was a little problem catching me, and I want to take this opportunity to apologize to Miss Evelyn, Cleo’s Mama, for hurting her back when she grabbed me as I ran by her. Fortunately, she understood. I am embarrassed to say there were other unfortunate incidents. Even though I didn’t want The Man and Woman to look at me, or pet me much, for some reason I got very upset when they left the house. In retrospect, I have no idea why I chewed up the chairs and the window frame, but it must have made sense at the time. There probably wouldn’t have been a stick of furniture left if The Woman hadn’t bought this nasty tasting liquid to spray on everything I could reach. They say that one of the signs of returning mental health is regaining a sense of humor, and I recall thinking it was amusing when The Woman accidentally inhaled a

bunch of the spray and choked and gagged for about five minutes.

In January, Georgie came to live here and he is my best friend. We go to storefronts together and I watch him and do what he does. He kisses people, so now I kiss people. He loves everyone and now I love everyone. Sometimes I get a little overwhelmed, but I just put my head under Georgie's stomach for a minute and then I'm fine. I play with toys, and I bark when people come to the door, and last week I knocked a possum off the fence and guarded it until I could show it to The Man when he got home. He was very proud of me, and I was very sad when apparently someone stole it while I was at dinner. Of course, every silver lining has a cloud attached, and in my opinion it was completely unnecessary for The Man and Woman to keep Merlin after the July foster time, but he is growing up a little and I am resigned.

Sometimes I hear The Woman telling The Man about a shy dog at the kennel and I wish everyone who fills out an application could meet me and know that I was that dog. And as happy as I am now, it seems like The Man and Woman are even happier. Every time I make another leap forward, you would think someone had given them a huge treat. Of course, they are simple creatures and it takes very little but attention and affection to make them happy. But in my new world of mental health, Living for Others is My Motto, and I just hope that Miss Nicole gives us a shy dog for a Christmas foster.

Tigger.....

Greyhound Health Issues

This issue of the newsletter contains some information on how to keep your greyhound healthy. Choosing a good food, foods to avoid, blood levels, and over the counter medications are all covered. Please remember always consult your veterinarian first if you have a question or concern about your dog's health. This information is intended for the education and interest of Greyhound owners and is NOT a substitute for medical advice.

HOUSEHOLD MEDICATIONS FOR PETS

The following is a list of common household human medications that can be used on pets. These medications should ONLY be used when you can't reach your veterinarian immediately. **PLEASE DO NOT DOSE YOUR ANIMAL IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IS WRONG WITH IT!**

PRODUCT	COMMON USAGE	CANINE DOSAGE	FELINE DOSAGE
Buffered Aspirin	Pain relief, anti-inflammatory	5 mg per/lb every 12 hrs	Not recommended
Vitamin B	Used as an appetite stimulant	1/2 to 2 ml subcutaneously, every 24 hrs	1/2 to 1 ml subcutaneously, every 24 hrs
Benadryl	Treats allergies, itching, insect stings, bites	1/2 mg per/lb every 8 hrs, maximum 2 mg per/lb	Same as canine
Dramamine	Reduces motion sickness	Up to 50 mg every 8 hrs	Up to 10 mg every 8 hrs
Hydrogen Peroxide 3%	Used to induce vomiting after accidental ingestion of poison	10 ml by mouth every 15 min	Same as canine
Epinephrine 1:1000	Used to treat reactions to medications, insect stings, bites	1/10 to 1/2 ml intramuscular or subcutaneously	1/10 to 2/10 ml intramuscular or subcutaneously
Pepto Bismol	For diarrhea, vomiting and anti-gas	1 tsp per 5 lbs every 6 hrs	Not recommended
Di Gel Liquid	Antacid and anti-gas	Up to 4 tblsp every 8 hrs	Up to 2 tsp every 8 hrs
Mineral Oil	Eliminates constipation	Up to 4 tblsp daily	Up to 2 tsp daily
Kaopectate	Relieves diarrhea	1 ml per/lb every 2 hrs	Same as canine
Tylenol	Pain relief	Not recommended	Not recommended

BLOOD LEVEL AVERAGES:

Here is some interesting info pulled from "Platelete Concentration and Hemoglobin Function in Greyhounds", Patrick Sullivan, DVM. This research paper dealt with a comparison of blood level averages between greyhounds and non greyhounds. Here are the averages for the 36 greyhounds that they pulled blood on. All of these greyhounds were free from any tick diseases. These can be compared to the results that are found in a CBC (Complete Blood Count) run by your Vet).

Value Average

HGB	Hemoglobin	19.86 +/-1.56
PCV	Packed Cell Volume	53.6 +/- 3.8
RBC	Red Blood Cells	6.66 +/-0.4
Protein Totals		6.2 +/-0.4
MCV	Mean Corpuscular Volume	81.2 +/-8.2
MCH	Mean Cellular Hemoglobin	30.03 +/-3.09
MCHC	MCH Concentrate	37.10 +/-1.51
WBC	White Blood Cells	7,886 +/-2,285
Segmented Neutrophils		5,867 +/-2,285
Band Neutrophils		22 +/-51
Lymphocytes		1,735 +/-836
Monocytes		194 +/-147
Eosinophils		74 +/-93
Basophils		5 +/-19
Platelet Count		154 +/-43
MPV	Mean Platelet Volume	8.81 +/-1.46

What's in those Blood Tests

By Suzanne Stack, D.V.M.

Blood Tests

When your veterinarian sends your greyhound's blood to a lab he is most commonly asking the lab to run a CBC (Complete Blood Count). This common analysis covers these items:

- RBC = Red Blood Cells
- Hgb = Hemoglobin
- PCV / HCT = Packed Cell Volume/Hematocrit
- WBC = White Blood Cells

Platelets

For a more in-depth look, usually to determine kidney/liver functions, the veterinarian may also ask for a "Chem Panel". This will give them information about:

- T.P. = Total Protein Globulin
- Creatinine
- T4 (Thyroid)

If you don't understand what your veterinarian has ordered, ask.

Greyhound bloodwork has enough differences from "other dog" bloodwork to sometimes make it deceptively "normal" or "abnormal" if one isn't familiar with these differences. The salient differences are discussed below.

Greyhounds:

- RBC: 7.4-9.0
- Hgb: 19.0-21.5
- PCV: 55-65

Other Breeds:

- RBC: 5.5-8.5
- Hgb: 12.0-18.0
- PCV: 37-55

Greyhounds have significantly more red blood cells than other breeds. This elevates parameters for RBC, hemoglobin, and PCV/HCT, and is the reason greyhounds are so desirable as blood donors. Most veterinarians are aware of this difference.

Never accept a diagnosis of polycythemia — a once-in-a-lifetime-rare diagnosis of pathologic red cell overproduction — in a greyhound.

Conversely, never interpret a greyhound PCV in the 30's-40's as being normal just because it is for other dogs. A greyhound with a PCV in the 30's-40's is an anemic greyhound. Here in Arizona, a greyhound PCV less than 50 is a red flag to check for Ehrlichia.

WBC

- Greyhound: 3.5-6.5 · Other dog: 6.0-17.0

Other greyhound CBC changes are less well known. The greyhound's normally low WBC has caused more than one healthy greyhound to undergo a bone marrow biopsy in search of "cancer" or some other cause of the "low WBC."

Platelets

- Greyhound: 80,000-200,000 Other dog: 150,000-400,000

Likewise, greyhound platelet numbers are lower on average than other breeds, which might be mistakenly interpreted as a problem. It is thought that greyhound WBCs, platelets, and total protein may be lower to physiologically “make room” in the bloodstream for the increased red cell load.

Compounding these normally low WBC and platelet numbers is the fact that Ehrlichia, a common blood parasite of greyhounds, can lower WBC and platelet counts. So if there is any doubt as to whether the WBC / platelet counts are normal, an Ehrlichia titer is always in order. The other classic changes with Ehrlichia are lowered PCV and elevated total protein. But bear in mind that every greyhound will not have every change, and Ehrlichia greyhounds can have normal CBCs.

T.P. & Globulin

- Greyhound TP: 4.5-6.
- Other dog TP: 5.4-7.8
- Greyhound Globulin: 2.1-3.2
- Other dog Globulin: 2.8-4.2

Greyhound total proteins tend to run on the low end of normal — T.P.s in the 5.0’s and 6.0’s are the norm. While the albumin fraction of T.P. is the same as other dogs, the globulin component is lower.

Creatinine

- Greyhound: .8-1.6
- Other dogs: .0-1.0

Greyhound creatinines run higher than other breeds as a function of their large lean muscle mass. A study at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine found that 80% of retired greyhounds they sampled had creatinine values above the standard reference range for “other dogs.” As a lone finding, an “elevated creatinine” is not indicative of impending kidney failure. If the BUN and urinalysis are normal, so is the “elevated” creatinine.

T4

- Greyhound: .5-3.6 (mean 1.47+/- .63) · Other dogs: 1.52-3.60

These figures are from a University of Florida study of thyroid function in 221 greyhounds — 97 racers, 99 broods, and 25 studs — so it included both racers and “retired.” While greyhound thyroid levels are a whole chapter unto themselves, a good rule of thumb is that greyhound T4s run about half that of other breeds.

Urinalysis

And lastly, the good news — greyhound urinalysis is the same as other breeds. It is normal for males to have small to moderate amounts of bilirubin in the urine.

Sources: M.R. Herron, DVM, ACVS, *Clinical Pathology of the Racing Greyhound*, 1991. C. Guillermo Couto, DVM, ACVIM, “Managing Thrombocytopenia in Dogs & Cats,” *Veterinary Medicine*, May 1999. J. Steiss, DVM, W. Brewer, DVM, E. Welles, DVM, J. Wright, DVM, “Hematologic & Serum Biochemical Reference Values in Retired Greyhounds,” *Compendium on Continuing Education*, March 2000. M. Bloomberg, DVM, MS, “Thyroid Function of the Racing Greyhound,” *University of Florida*, 1987. D. Bruyette, DVM, ACVIM, *Veterinary Information Network*, 2001.

THE GREAT DOG FOOD HUNT

Choosing a good dog food can be a challenge. You want one that is easily available, provides optimal nutrition for your Greyhound, fits in your budget, and is tasty to your dog. To add to the challenge, a few Greyhounds have sensitive stomachs, which means it can be trial & error to find the right food. The right food will produce a healthy coat with no dandruff, little or no gas, and a well formed stool. GPA Houston feeds all of the Greyhounds in our care Canidae, which is a very high quality food, made with only human grade ingredients. Many Greyhound families continue to feed Canidae to their adopted Greyhound, and for their convenience, The Best Friends Pet Hotel carries Canidae for sale. Canidae may also be found at some other local businesses, and you can find the retailer listing online at <http://www.canidae.com> go to store locator and type in your telephone area code.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

High quality protein sources. Chicken, lamb, turkey, fish, or less commonly, beef, should be listed in "meal" form; avoid any dog food that uses the generic term "animal product", "digest" product, "by-product", beef tallow, or pork in any form.

-A meat based food instead of a grain based food. Beware of "grain splitting", which might show ingredients listed as corn, corn gluten, and corn flour; wheat in any form; these ingredients in combination would outweigh the meat source.

-As few allergens as possible. The most common allergy-causing ingredients are wheat, soy, and corn. Food allergies in most dogs will most commonly show up as itchy, dry skin, or itchy feet which the dog chews on frequently. They can also cause major gas.

-No artificial preservatives. "Mixed tocopherols" are Vitamin C and E, and are the preferred preservative. Rosemary is another good preservative. AVOID BHA, BHT, and ethoxyquin. They are believed to cause cancer.

Things to consider regarding the cost. First, consider how much you will be feeding. If Brand A suggests feeding 5 cups a day, while Brand B suggests 3 cups a day, you'll most likely be getting more for your money with Brand B, even if it is more expensive. In addition, Brand A probably requires more food to be fed to provide complete nutrition because it has more fillers in it. Fillers go in one end and out the other, so your dog will just be pooping your money away.

While buying the largest bag of food may be more economical when considering price per pound, keep in mind that the natural preservatives (the Vitamin E and C) have a short shelf life once the bag is open. If you are only feeding one dog, you may be better off buying a smaller bag.

The following are all excellent high quality foods. Their web sites are listed also. Most, if not all web sites will have a store locator.

Canidae <http://www.canidae.com>

Innova <http://www.naturapet.com>

California Natural <http://www.naturapet.com>

Natural Blend <http://naturalblend.com/adult.htm>

Natural Balance <http://www.naturalbalanceinc.com/products/home.html>

Solid Gold (Hund-n-flocken) www.solidgoldhealth.com/,

Wellness <http://www.oldmotherhubbard.com/dogs/wellness>

The following can be found at Auburn Kennels 1551 Campbell Road (713)465-6425

These are excellent foods.

Innova, California Natural, Hund-n-flocken, Wellness, Natural Balance

The following can be purchased at Petco, and are excellent foods.

Natural Balance, Natural Blend

The following can be purchased at Petsmart, and are good foods.

Nutro Natural Choice chicken meal, rice and barley, Nutro Natural Balance lamb meal and rice

The Nutro Max formulas contain corn and wheat, so would NOT be recommended.

The following web pages list ingredients in dog food and the nutrients found in each one. It also explains a little about the good and bad qualities of each ingredient.

<http://home.hawaii.rr.com/wolfepack/foodcht2.html>

Here's another site which contains more general information.

<http://www.bestpetfood.info/readbetweenlines.html>

This link takes you to the manufacturer's website. <http://www.naturapet.com/>

Click on "tools", then go to the "Comparison Wizard" to compare many different foods and their ingredients. If an ingredient in the comparison chart has a red "x" by it, you can click on it to learn why

Greyhound Vet Network

CLINIC NAME	ADDRESS	V
Bissonnett/Southampton Vet Clinic	2028 Bissonnett	D
Memorial Town and Country	12661 Memorial Dr	D
Rice Village	2348 Rice Blvd	D
Southside Place Animal Clinic	6902 Stella Link	D
Meyerland Animal Hospital	4995 W Bellfort	D
Post Oak Willowbend	11227 S Post Oak	D
Fairbanks Animal Clinic	7151 Fairbanks N Houston	D
Wilcrest Animal Hospital	704 Wilcrest Dr	D
Voss Road Animal Hospital	2215 S Voss Rd	D
Bay Glen Animal Hospital	1616 Clear Lake City Blvd	D
TLC Animal Hospital	14870 Space Center Blvd S	D
Tanglewilde Animal Hospital	2717 Rockyridge	D
Animal Medical Center	11100 Cypress N Houston	D
Northwest Animal Clinic	3031 FM 1960 W	D
FM 1960 Animal Hospital	6703 FM 1960 W	D
South Gessner Pet Clinic	10323 S Gessner	D
Nottingham Animal Clinic	14465 Memorial Dr	D
Longenbaugh Veterinary Hospital	15703 E Longenbaugh	D
King's Crossing	3425 W Lake Houston Pwy	D
Atascazoo Animal Hospital	5910 FM 1960 E #5	D
Porter Animal Hospital	23545 FM 1314	D
Critter Fixer	5703 Louetta	D
Stuebner-Airline Champions Vet Clinic	16116 Stuebner-Airline, St 7	D
Kuykendhal Veterinary Hospital	17740 Kuykendhal	D
Enchanted Oaks	153 Cypresswood Dr	D
Telge Rd Vet Clinic	11430 Telge Rd	D
All Pets Animal Clinic	959 S Mason Rd	D

Foods to Avoid

Items to avoid	Reasons to avoid
Alcoholic beverages	Can cause intoxication, coma, and death.
Baby food	Can contain onion powder, which can be toxic to dogs. (Please see onion below.) Can also result in nutritional deficiencies, if fed in large amounts.
Bones from fish, poultry, or other meat sources	Can cause obstruction or laceration of the digestive system.
Cat food	Generally too high in protein and fats.
Chocolate, coffee, tea, and other caffeine	Contain caffeine, theobromine, or theophylline, which can be toxic and affect the heart and nervous systems.
Citrus oil extracts	Can cause vomiting.
Fat trimmings	Can cause pancreatitis.
Grapes and raisins	Contain an unknown toxin, which can damage the kidneys.
Hops	Unknown compound causes panting, increased heart rate, elevated temperature, seizures, and death.
Human vitamin supplements containing iron	Can damage the lining of the digestive system and be toxic to the other organs including the liver and kidneys.
Large amounts of liver	Can cause Vitamin A toxicity, which affects muscles and bones.
Macadamia nuts	Contain an unknown toxin, which can affect the digestive and nervous systems and muscle.
Marijuana	Can depress the nervous system, cause vomiting, and changes in the heart rate.
Milk and other dairy products	Some adult dogs and cats do not have sufficient amounts of the enzyme lactase, which breaks down the lactose in milk. This can result in diarrhea. Lactose-free milk products are available for pets.
Moldy or spoiled food, garbage	Can contain multiple toxins causing vomiting and diarrhea and can also affect other organs.
Mushrooms	Can contain toxins, which may affect multiple systems in the body, cause shock, and result in death.
Onions and garlic (raw, cooked, or powder)	Contain sulfoxides and disulfides, which can damage red blood cells and cause anemia. Cats are more susceptible than dogs. Garlic is less toxic than onions.
Persimmons	Seeds can cause intestinal obstruction and enteritis.
Pits from peaches and plums	Can cause obstruction of the digestive tract.
Pork or pork fat	Can cause pancreatitis, an infection or inflammation of the pancreas, can be life threatening.
Potato, rhubarb, and tomato leaves; potato and tomato stems	Contain oxalates, which can affect the digestive, nervous, and urinary systems. This is more of a problem in livestock.
Raw eggs	Contain an enzyme called avidin, which decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin). This can lead to skin and hair coat problems. Raw eggs may also contain Salmonella.
Raw fish	Can result in a thiamine (a B vitamin) deficiency leading to loss of appetite, seizures, and in severe cases, death. More common if raw fish is fed regularly.
Salt	If eaten in large quantities it may lead to electrolyte imbalances.
String	Can become trapped in the digestive system; called a "string foreign body."
Sugary foods	Can lead to obesity, dental problems, and possibly diabetes mellitus.
Table scraps (in large amounts)	Table scraps are not nutritionally balanced. They should never be more than 10% of the diet. Fat should be trimmed from meat; bones should not be fed.
Tobacco	Contains nicotine, which affects the digestive and nervous systems. Can result in rapid heart beat, collapse, coma, and death.
Yeast dough	Can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines.

2003

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 _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone 1 _____ Work Phone 2 _____

Is this a new address? Yes No

Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Occupation 1 _____ Employer _____

Occupation 2 _____ Employer _____

Greyhound's Name _____ Age _____ GPA Tag # _____

Greyhound's Name _____ Age _____ GPA Tag # _____

Greyhound's Name _____ Age _____ GPA Tag # _____

Greyhound's Name _____ Age _____ GPA Tag # _____

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

Vet _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Brand of Heartworm Preventative Used _____

I am renewing my GPA/Houston membership for 2003. (If you adopted after October, your dues are paid for 2003)

\$25 Member \$50 Supporting \$75- \$100 Benefactor \$200-\$500 Angel \$1000+ Saint

Payment Information Check Visa Mastercard

Visa or MC # _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

I would like to help the greyhounds by.....(Please circle all that apply.)

Volunteering at the kennel Being a holiday or as-needed foster home Transporting greyhounds to the vet Participating in storefront events in my area

Other: Please list any other skills (professional or hobbies) that you have that you would be willing to share with GPA Houston.

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

Please apply this donation to...

The building fund Special Needs Emergency Fund Food for the greyhounds Operating expenses

My employer offers matching funds. Please contact me at _____

GPA Houston would like to acknowledge members who donate to our organization on our website. Do we have permission to post your name on our website. Yes No

The greyhounds appreciate your continued support. Thank-you.

Address Correction Requested

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



713-866-4466

www.gpahouston.org

Adopt A Greyhound