



PAWS & REFLECT

Greyhound Pets of America Central Texas Newsletter

Vol 5, No. 7 July 2001

Calendar of Events

You and your guests are invited to attend GPA/Central Texas' monthly meetings at 7pm on the first Monday of each month. (If the first Monday is a holiday, the meeting day, time and location will be announced.)

Meetings are held at the

Town Lake Animal Shelter

Davenport Bldg. 1

1156 W. Cesar Chavez St.,

behind the ball fields that front Chavez (formerly West First St.) across from Town Lake.

*July Meeting
Monday the 2nd*

Meet - n - Greet

Noon to 3pm unless noted

First Saturday

▶ Petco/Hancock Center

First Sunday

▶ Petco/RR @

FM 1325 & IH-35

Second Saturday -

▶ Walmart-RoundRock

7pm-9pm

Third Saturday

▶ Petco/ Brodie Lane

11am-2pm

Fourth Saturday

▶ Petco/Arboretum

▶ Gallery of Pets @

Hwy 183 & Duval Road

The First Annual Greyhound Jamboree

GPA/Central Texas is pleased to announce our 1st annual Greyhound Jamboree. It will be held October 27 from 10am to 4pm. The location will be announced at a later date.



The Jamboree will be a fun day for all (humans and greys). It will be an excellent chance for us to let the public know what "grey" pets these beautiful animals make. There will be contests and prizes for the greys, a speed alley to see how fast your pup can run, new GPA merchandise, a variety of vendors, activities for our human kids, some "grey" raffle items, and of course, FOOD!

The planning committee would like your help in making this a rousing success. We need volunteers for planning and running this big event. We will also need donations to help offset the initial costs for the Jamboree. You will soon be receiving a letter asking for donations and telling you a little bit more about what is being planned.

If you can't wait and would like to get in on the action right now, call Bobbie Wier at 634-5222. **We can use everyone's help and ideas.**

Greyhound Library Program

If you have a hour to spare during the days listed below, call Diane 345-0481

DATE & LOCATION

Tuesday, July 3 @ 10:30

Little Walnut Branch

835 W. Rundberg Lane

Thursday, July 5 @ 2:00

Spicewood Springs Branch

8637 Spicewood Springs Road

Friday, July 6 @ 10:30

Twin Oaks Branch

2301 South Congress #7

Tuesday, July 10 @ 1:00

Terrazas Branch

1105 East Cesar Chavez Street

Wednesday, July 11 @ 1:30

Old Quarry Branch

7051 Village Center Drive

Join us at the July Membership Meeting

July 2, 2001 at 7pm

Lee Mannix from Dog Boy's Positive Power Kennels will be speaking at the July 2nd meeting. He is a dog trainer and specializes in aggression and nutrition. He will speak to pack behaviors and how to get the positive behaviors you want from your dog. He will also answer behavior and training questions.



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Write us for a newsletter.

Visit our website

www.gpacentraltexas.org

Join our Email list

send a blank email to

gpact-subscribe@egroups.com

or ask Bobbie Wier

Newsletter contributions welcome!

Email Diane Schiesser at
gpago@austin.rr.com

August Membership Meeting

If your greyhound suffered heat stroke, would you know what to do? Heave that 75-pound inert body into the back of your SUV and race to the vet? Maybe there's something easier. Our guest speaker for the August membership meeting is going to focus on Doggie First Aid, with ways to give immediate care to that unwieldy critter you know and love. Dr. Todd Riggan, of White Rock Veterinary Clinic in Pflugerville, will present tips not only on care, but also on what you should keep stocked in your first aid kit. Additionally, he will speak to what kinds of over-the-counter medications are safe and effective for greys.

Dr. Riggan, who graduated from Texas A & M University in 1991, was named Best Vet by Austin Family Magazine in 1998. Until recently he has practiced at Brykerwood Veterinary Clinic and has, for more than 7 years, been "personal veterinarian" to Koa and Sweetie McIntosh (and more recently to B.J.).

Come prepared to ask questions and to learn Monday, August 6, 7 PM, at the Davenport Building of Town Lake Animal Center, 1156 West Cesar Chavez



Adoptions

5/30 - Lucy (EJ's Sweet Lucy)
Adopted by Liz, Frank, Emily and Katie Kleinburg and a Dalmation.

5/31 - Mamma Ethel (Petro Quickback) Adopted by Kevin and Rose Marks and greyhound Zeke and two cats.

6/01 - Dallas Adopted by Thad, Sharon, Brian and Daniel Byers, a cocker and rabbit.

6/04 - Emma (NXS Little Tar) Adopted by Marilyn Lenz and greyhound Trever. Has also moved to Baltimore, MD.

6/07 - Jada (Ida/River Idle) Adopted by Brooke and Aaron Karr and two cats.

6/15 - Austin Adopted by Michael and Elizabeth Reynolds.

6/16 - Buddy (FMC Brits Charm) Adopted by Melanie and Jonathan Friedrichsen and cat.

6/18 - Rita (River Favorite) Adopted by Lisa and Keith Denison and cat Gizmo.

6/21 - Lilly (Lilly Mae) Adopted by Sean Ford and Gary Carrel and a Cockapoo.



Emma



Personals

Find a special four legged friend here!!

Key to Personals: M-male; F-female; R-red; Wh-white; Blk-black; Bu-blue; Fw-fawn; Harl-harlequin; Bdl-brindle; L-large, S-small; PCF-possible cat friendly, SDF-Small dog friendly

Casper-Fw/mix/M 2 years old - I'm a big sweetie and I'll follow you anywhere!

Murphy - RFW/F 3 years old I am small and expect to be petted. I am shy at first and very routine oriented. I am also sweet and loving.

Bonnie - Red/F 3 years old I am a small, sweet girl, rather shy at first but will come around for attention. I LOVE stuffed toys.

Dotty - Wh&Blk/F 2 years old I am submissive but I really like attention. I love to be petted.

Precious - Wht&Red/F 10 months I am young and don't know the ropes yet. I need to have an older dog around to help me out. I can be shy and submissive but also a real sweetheart.

Oreo - Bdl&Wht/M 2 1/2 years old I am aloof at first and will come up for petting after I have gotten use to the new surroundings. I can be very loving.

Texas Star - Black/M 3 years old Come let me be your Texas Star. I am a great guy and get along with small dogs!!

Curly (Yeller) - Fawn/Mix/M You can call me old Yeller, just don't call me late for dinner! I like little dogs too!

Cookie - Bk&Tan/F 4 years old I am a shy little girl who needs a lot of love and attention. I am very sweet and loving.

Manny -DkBdl/M 4years old I am a very sweet boy, who likes my humans. I like toys of any kind, and can be pushy for attention.

Jax - Bk/M 3 years old I am an attention hound for sure! I am sweet and loving. I am playful especially when there is a ball around.

Marley - Blk/F 3 years old I am a cat and kid friendly girl, who is sweet and loving and I'm looking for my permanent home! Call Marley.

Reagan- Blk/M 5 years old I am a loving boy who likes cats and small dogs. I'm a little on the thin side and a bit shy. I'm not quite ready for a home just yet, but call to get to know me!

Spice - RBdl/M 3 years old I am a shy guy at first, but with some time I will show you my loving personality. Toys are an absolute must for me, I would love to come check out your toys.

Miss Minge - DkBl/F 6 years old I am friendly and love to be around people. I am sweet and quiet.

Senior Fosters are Summer Time Cool . . .



Bob

Bob - RdBdl/M 10 years old Bob's my name, and a friendly couch potato is my game. I get along with small dogs!! So call on Bob

Riva - Red/F 12 years old I'm an older gal and I'm cat friendly. Call on Riva to come be your sweet greyhound pal.

Zeus - DkBdl/M 11 years old Zeus is a older dog who would love to snuggle on the couch with you and your cats! Call me up for a sweet charmer to let in your life!

Lucy - Wht&Bl/F 8 years old I am an older lady looking for a forever home. I am sweet and lovable, but mostly calm. I love walks in the cool of the day. I am small dog, cat and bird friendly.

Congratulations to Barbara Clark for winning the monthly Meet N Greet Raffle. All items for the raffles are donated to GPA to help fund the Greyhound Jamboree to be held in October.



When It's Time To Say Goodbye

by Gail Buchalter, published in the Parade June 3, 2001

THE DEATH OF A BELOVED PET can cause as much sadness, guilt and loneliness as losing any human loved one. But there are many ways to cope with the pain...

Emily Ware, 40, of Lansing, Mich., was brokenhearted when she had to end the life of her 18-year-old cat, Mocha-Mimas, who had suffered a seizure. "I watched her struggled," recalls Ware. "She was always very dignified, and suddenly she was staggering and falling down. A part of me knew she should be put down." Ware was distraught about taking that final step and only felt comfortable when the veterinarian confirmed her decision. "My own struggle ended once Mocha-Mimas' doctor said it was time," she says. "I felt a sense of relief. It was so hard to make the decision by myself."

Whether it involves euthanasia, a violent accident or is the result of old age, the death of a beloved pet can be a wrenching experience, causing deep sadness, guilt and loneliness in the owner. Today, more Americans than ever before are suffering that loss, in part because we simply have more pets—more than 52 million dogs and 60 million cats—and the number is growing. But pet owners today also seem to bond more deeply with their animals.

"There has been a breakdown of the traditional family in the last 20 or so years," says Gail Golab, the assistant director of education and research for the American Veterinary Medical Association. "More people marry late and get pets when they're single. Others are choosing not to have children but to have pets instead. And in this mobile society, children grow up and move away, and pets replace them."

But this is a setup for sadness: People generally outlive their pets several times over. How can you ease the pain of losing your pet? For many, it starts with the way a pet dies.

Find comfort in the final hours

Dr. Mary Ellen McLoughlin, the owner of petcalls, a mobile veterinary service on Long Island, N.Y., is often called upon to help her clients decide when to euthanize a pet. "When someone is struggling with euthanasia, often they just need me to say it's OK," she says. Today, pet hospitals and veterinarians are becoming more sensitive to owners' needs, adds McLoughlin: "Many hospitals have grieving rooms where you can say goodbye. Veterinary schools now offer sensitivity classes. But it's still traumatic for most pets to go to the hospital—the animal has no good memories of being there."

In response, many vets now are performing euthanasia at home. As difficult as it was for Emily Ware to say goodbye to Mocha-Mimas, the fact that it happened at home helped. "I held her while she died and buried her in the yard," says Ware. "Then I hung up pictures of her. And I had wonderful surprise—I found a video of her that I didn't know existed. It was so much more than a still photo—I recommend taking videos of pets."

Get beyond the guilt

Bruce Sklar, 40, of Sterling, Va., did not have time to plan for the death of his German shepherd, Susie. She was 13 and had some health problems,

but things had stabilized, so Sklar decided to take a trip. While he was away, Susie suddenly died, probably from a heart attack.

"The first week was extremely tough," Sklar says. "I felt guilty about not being there for Susie. I went to work because I didn't want to be home. I was lucky—the people there were very understanding, but I didn't get a lot done."

Within a month, Sklar had taken home Maxine, a 2-year-old German shepherd, from a rescue organization. "I didn't feel like I should be replacing Susie that soon," he says. "I took Max under the premise that I would just foster her. But she was really abused and needed a home. She started to grow on me. Now Max offers me companionship and love, but she'll never replace Susie."

Feeling guilty after the loss of a pet—as Sklar did when Susie died—is a typical reaction. "It's important to realize that it's the *responsible* pet owner who beats himself up," says Susan Cohen, a social worker who founded the first pet-loss support group, at the Animal Medical Center in New York City in 1983. "Treat yourself with the same kindness you've shown your pet."

Cohen recommends turning those negative feelings into a positive learning experience. "If your dog was struck by a car while off its leash, go to a school and teach kids the importance of keeping dogs on a leash," she says. "But don't keep beating yourself up. If you can't get beyond it, you may need counseling."



What to tell your children

When a child loses a pet, parents must be extra-sensitive. How death is explained will differ according to the age of the child. Children less than 5 years old don't understand death and its permanency, so it's important to be concrete and explain that Fluffy isn't coming back. Children between 5 and 10 want all the gory details and often ask many questions. Answer them truthfully and with as much information as you can.

Laurel and Pete Lagoni of Fort Collins, Colo., included their two daughters in the death process of their dog, Toby, who had cancer and was euthanized four years ago. "We told them when it was time to put Toby Down," says Pete. "Bryn was 8, and Kaia was 4. We said goodbye and talked about what Toby meant to each of us. We laughed and cried, remembering her in a ceremony that celebrated her life. The girls did fine. I think children take their cues from adults. Too many of us bury our grief. But if you look at death as a way to learn about life, it keeps you saner."

"Most pet owners seem to adhere to the policy of 'get over it and get on with it,' but that's not always effective," says laurel, who is managing director of the Argus Institute program at Colorado State University, which oversees efforts ranging from sensitivity training for veterinarians to running pet-loss support groups. "Instead, take the time to say goodbye to your pet and cry. There are many ways of coping with your loss. But first you have to acknowledge your grief."

Tips For Dealing With Pet Loss:

- √ **Join a Pet-Loss Support Group.**
- √ **Realize there is no "right way" to grieve--everyone does it in his or her own way and time.**
- √ **Commemorate your pet's death.** Have a funeral, buy a headstone, hold a wake.
- √ **Consult a veterinarian** if you have nay questions about your pet's death.
- √ **Consult a therapist** if it seems as if your grief is taking over your life.
- √ **Tailor your explanation of death to the age of your children.** Be honest with them and make sure they understand that their pet is not coming back.
- √ **Preserve your memories.** Help your children put together a phot album of the family pet or create a collage.

Our Thoughts are with you...



Chris Wernette, a former GPA/Austin member, lost her greyhound 'Vinnie' (Solitaire) in May 2001.

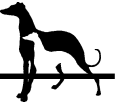
Cindy Kenneally lost her greyhound 'Dante' on June 12, 2001. Cindy also lost her mother, Jeanie Carpenter, on June 19, 2001.

Jon and Beth Underwood lost their greyhound 'Josh' on June 8, 2001.



*Deepest
Sympathy*

*I am so sorry
for the loss
of your
beloved and
faithful dog.*



Josh: The Gentle Giant

On the eve of Federal Income Tax Deadline in 1991, the owners of the Why Tell racing kennel were frantically figuring their income tax. In the kennel, the union of Concrete Mix and Traffic Warning were producing a litter of the next racing champions. In this litter were 5 brindle males and 1 brindle female. At the tender age of 19 months, all the males weighed in the mid 80's and the female weighed in the mid 60's. All were loaded on a dog trailer and hauled to the track in Corpus Christi. Only one "Why Tell Josh" made it though his maiden races, and was set on the course to be a champion. Only one problem, he never won a maiden race and graded off the Corpus Track. His owners were still sure that he had champion written all over him and loaded him into another dog hauler for the long trip to Naples/Ft. Myers, Florida. Upon arrival at the track, he promptly won his only schooling race and finished 1st or 2nd in his next ten races. The kennel owners now knew their feeling about Josh was right. Over the next four months Josh raced 25 times and finished in the money 16 of those races. Of those 16 money races he only won 3, but with a racing weight of 83 to 85 pounds, it takes a while to get that size body moving. He was always gaining ground but generally could not overtake the leader. On May 23, 1993, he met the fate that befalls many athletes, a pulled muscle in his left rear leg. Over the next several months, attempts were made to repair the damage and get him back on the track, but all attempts were unsuccessful.

Josh was brought back to the kennel in Lexington, Texas. At some unknown time the owners of the kennel were approached by an individual wanting a dog to hunt hogs in Bartlett, Texas. Therefore the future champion was hauled off to Bartlett to go into the river bottom and hunt wild hogs. Apparently, this was not to his liking, as he was found by Bell County Animal Control and taken to the Temple Animal Shelter. The Temple Shelter is a Kill Shelter and gives animals 5 days to be adopted. Josh showed up at the shelter in May or June of 1995. Apparently the shelter personnel recognized him for what he is, A Gentle Giant. In November of 1995, he was still in the shelter, many more than the 5 day grace period. Lynn and Jodie Wolley of Temple told GPA about this gigantic greyhound that was in the shelter and asked if the group wanted him. We said yes, we would gladly take him. The Wolleys also said that he probably was not cat friendly since he had been adopted and brought back after two days because he got the adopters cat.

Many Meet and Greets brought about the reaction of "My gosh, look how big he is," but no applications. In June of 1996, GPA participated in a pet adoption show at the Austin Convention Center. At this time a young lady put an application in the hopper for Josh. Beth's response was "We have had him in our house as a foster for so long, I can't let him go." We adopted him and the young lady who placed the application asked for her money back.

That decision was one of the best ones we had made. This dog was truly a gentle giant, except where the cats were concerned. He made our life miserable and eventually was part of the pack that got the last cat in our yard.

I have only known him growl at another dog one time in five years we have had him. We had an extremely food aggressive foster dog in here, and he and Josh were by the counter with me. The foster got too close and I did not hear Josh growl but I felt the vibrations from his body, as he was doing the greyhound lean against my leg. The food aggressive foster turned and left the room. From that day forward the food aggressiveness was noticeably less.

Josh always enjoyed the times the vets office would have numerous kindergarten classes through the office and each one of the kids would get to pet him and listen to his heart. Never a complaint, just stood there until the last one finished.

Josh was also a universal animal blood donor at the Texas Animal Blood Bank. He regularly gave each three months, and gave when called upon for an emergency.

Unfortunately, Josh was recently diagnosed with bone cancer, in his left front leg, just below the shoulder. Considerable research was done on the alternatives. The most promising was a bone replacement



Josh at the Texas Independence Parade on March 2, 2001

as you have been these last five years that we have known you.

You have been recognized as being a greyhound greyhound by having your likeness placed on numerous greyhound items, posters and other memorabilia over the years.

Josh, my gentle giant, please go and have fun with your greyhound friends, and remember that before you know it, Beth and I will join you in this great place.

We will never forget you!
Dad & Mom

program at the Vet school at Colorado State University. Once again Josh received a set back, because his cancerous area was too close to the shoulder and there was not enough good bone left to make the bone graft. After much more research and consultations with vets and vet schools, we decided that we would not amputate the leg and put a ten year old dog through that, especially one his size, since approximately 70% of their weight is carried on those front legs. We chose to go with a homeopathic treatment from Australia.



As the vets told us, "Bone cancer is basically not curable, only controllable; and at some point it will reoccur." His quality of life was deteriorating and he was experiencing pain from time to time, with the frequency of the pain getting closer and closer.

Josh, on Friday, June 8, 2001, went to a place where there is no pain, where he and the other greyhounds there are free to run and lay around without the fear of injury or sickness. They are free to let the wind blow in their faces and play until they are joined by the human friends from earth. At that point they have their animal friends and human friends forever.

Josh, the last five years have been great, many of your greyhound friends are much richer because you showed them the ropes and how to be a pet. You trained them in the proper manners for living in a house, you told them how to be successful in getting extra dog biscuits from their new parents, you taught them the secret of working their way in and sleeping on the bed with their humans, you taught them what they needed to do to be as great an animal

Randalls **The Good Neighbor Program**

Now you can help the greyhounds while you shop at Randall's. Remember the next time you are in Randall's, go to the service desk and give them the 4-digit account number, **9470**. This number will allow GPA Central Texas to receive a percentage of your purchases.

Letters Policy

The Paws and Reflect newsletter of GPA/Central Texas encourages letters from its readers. Letters should be to the point, typed, double spaced and signed. Address and telephone number must be provided for verification purposes.

Letters will be printed on space available basis (300 word limit). Letters should be concise and not be simply a means of expressing personal belief.

We reserve the right to edit all letters for length, content, and potentially libelous statements. GPA/Central Texas reserves the right to reject publication of any letter for any reason.

Letters published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of this organization on any subject.

GPA Central Texas

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION TO HELP WITH GREYHOUND EXPENSES
REMEMBER: IT'S TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!

Name _____ Amt _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email _____

Do you want a receipt mailed to you? _____

Type of donation _____ Individual Membership _____ Family Membership

_____ Emergency Medical Expense Donation

_____ Regular Donation

Please mail donations to: GPA/Central Texas PO Box 40086 Georgetown, TX 78628

Annual Membership: Individual \$15; Family \$25; Adoption Fee of \$125 includes a one
year individual membership in the chapter, including newsletter

DONATIONS OF ANY AMOUNT ARE VERY MUCH APRECIATED!!

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