



# PAWS & REFLECT

*Greyhound Pets of America Central Texas  
Monthly Newsletter*

*Vol 6, No. 1 January 2002*

## **ROUTINE 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 across from Town Lake.

***January Meeting  
Monday the 7th***

## **MEET-N-GREET'S**

*Noon to 3pm unless noted*

### **First Saturday**

- Petco/Hancock Center

### **First Sunday**

- Petco/RR @

FM 1325 & IH-35

### **Second Saturday -**

- Walmart in Round Rock .

### **Third Saturday**

- Petco/ Brodie Lane

11am-2pm

### **Third Sunday**

- Petco/ Lakeline

### **Fourth Saturday**

- Petco/ Arboretum

## **AN EARLY ENGLISH BLESSING**

Whoever on the night of the nativity in the great snows shall fare forth bearing  
A succulent bone for the lost and lamenting hound,  
A whisp of hay for the shivering horse,  
A cloak of warm raiment for the stranded wayfarer,  
A bundle of fagots for the twittering crone,  
A flagon of red wine for him whose marrow withers,  
A garland of bright berries for one who has worn chains,  
A dish of crumbs with a song of love for all huddled birds who thought that song was dead,  
And divers lush sweetmeats for such babes' faces as peer from lonely windows  
To him shall be proffered and returned gifts of such astonishment  
As will rival the hues of the peacock and the harmonies of heaven.  
Though he live to a great age  
When man goes stooping and querulous because of the nothing that is left in him,  
Yet shall he walk upright and remember  
As one whose heart shines like a great star in his breast.

God Bless our wonderful foster families and all those who give of themselves in the aid of the greyhounds and all creature

Dona Ghadimi

## **A DOGGIE CLIPPY THING**

Upstairs in momma's secret drawer  
she keeps a monster thing of horror,  
they bite and try to eat our toes,  
why they do that no one knows.

We bark and fuss and wiggle and squirm,  
but our dad and momma holds us firm.  
This thing of horror makes a noise;  
although it's squeaky—it's not like toys.

It's a squeaky, snippy, clippy thing,  
it has sharp teeth and a big strong spring.  
Sometimes after it eats our feet,  
we get something good to eat.

But one day when no one else is home  
and we are left here all alone,  
we'll sneak it out and none will know,  
we sent it where the odd socks go!

## **FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

February is Dental Hygiene Month!  
On February 4, 2002, Lynn Randoll DVM will give a presentation on doggie dental hygiene. Dr. Randoll is excited to be coming to talk to us and has some surprises in store for

those attending. As always the meeting will be at the Town Lake Animal Shelter, Davenport Bldg. 1. See you there!



## **GPA/ Central Texas Board of Directors**

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Contact us for a newsletter.

### **Visit our website**

[www.gpacentraltexas.org](http://www.gpacentraltexas.org)

### **Join our Email list**

send a blank email to

[gpact-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:gpact-subscribe@egroups.com)

or ask Bobbie Wier

Newsletter contributions welcome!

Email Diane Schiesser at

[gpago@austin.rr.com](mailto:gpago@austin.rr.com)

**Newsletter Deadline is the 15th of every month. If you would like to share your story with the membership please submit it to Diane.**

## **GREYHOUNDS AND PRE-OPERATIVE BLOODWORK**

By Melissa Turnbull, DVM

Originally published by GPA/North-west

Often times, when a pet is brought to a veterinary clinic for a surgery or procedure requiring anesthesia, the owner is asked if they would like preoperative bloodwork done. Owners, often times, are not clear as to the reasons this is recommended.

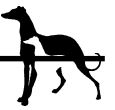
The hope is to dispel the mystery involved and explain why this is a warranted procedure. There are several reasons to consider pre-operative bloodwork. First, it will give your veterinarian baseline values for your pet – this helps establish a trend. In other words, it can help with early detection of diseases such as liver or kidney disease.

Second, it can help your veterinarian decide on the type of anesthesia to use on your pet, especially if a disease or condition is diagnosed prior to surgery or procedure. Different anesthetics are metabolized by different organs systems in the body, such as liver, kidneys or lungs, and if one of these organs systems is compromised, it can lead to a life-threatening situation for your pet. Pre-operative bloodwork can also alert your veterinarian to other concerns such as improper blood clotting, etc. As most of you know, greyhounds are especially sensitive to anesthesia – this is due to their lack of body fat. Normally, certain injectable anesthetics go directly to an animal's fat layer and then over a certain time period (minutes or hours), the anesthesia is released into the bloodstream leading eventually to the metabolism of the anesthesia. Because greyhounds lack the fat layer, the anesthesia has nowhere to go and stays in the bloodstream therefore keeping the greyhound anesthetized longer.

A common assumption is that a young animal equals a healthy animal – this is true in most instances. Ideally, pre-operative bloodwork should be performed prior to all surgical/anesthetic procedures, but even more so in the "middle aged" to "senior" animals. In most veterinary clinics, these are any animals seven years or older.

The type of pre-operative bloodwork performed is usually based on the age of seven years. Greyhounds younger than seven years should have a complete blood count (CBC) and a mini-panel and thyroid function test performed at the minimum. Greyhounds older than seven years should have a CBC, full panel and thyroid function performed. A complete blood count, or CBC, can alert your veterinarian to a number of concerns such as anemia, infection, leukemia, parasites, decreased oxygen carrying capabilities of red blood cells, or loss of platelets (which are responsible for helping the blood to clot properly). A panel, also known as a chemistry panel, evaluates certain organ systems in the body. It can alert your veterinarian to liver or kidney disease, diabetes mellitus, pancreatitis, certain endocrine diseases such as Cushing's or Addison's, protein-losing diseases, or dehydration. Please ask your veterinarian for more in-depth explanation of these diseases.

While anesthesia has become safer, it is good medicine to have "all your cards on the table" when having to put your pet under anesthesia. Your veterinarian wants what is best for your pet and supplying him or her with all the knowledge available is the best for your pet. Your pet will thank you with unconditional love.



# 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

**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.

**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.

**Silver** - GreyBrown/F 2 years old  
I am a mix, but I think I'm a full greyhound. Very small, cute little girl. Needs a very dedicated firm handed guardian and loving home. Very friendly tail wagger.

**Jester** - R Bdl/M 4 years old.  
My first home and guardians gave me up. I am head strong, but very loving. I need a firm hand and I am cat friendly.

**Trolly** - Blk/F 6 year old  
Friendly, playful, loves stuffed toys, needs a forever home with lots of loving.

**Ziggy** - Wht/Blk F 6 year old  
Laid back or reserved. Wags tail when spoken to and loves attention.

**Dancer** - Wht/Bdl F 6 year old  
Small and quite but this all changes when she is around you and gets to know you, Very loving.



**Smokey** - Red/black overcoat/M 9 months old.  
Are you looking for a small sweet rather shy boy? I would love for you to look at me. I need my forever home.

**Queeny** - Dark Bdl/F 3 year old  
Come see this small, feisty, playful, loving and very cute little girl. A permanent home would be really nice.

**Darcy** - Red/F 1 year old  
I am very playful and very affectionate. Young but a real cute and neat girl.

**Beret** - Wht/Bdl F 2 year old  
Playful, likes toys, is fascinated with mirrors at her foster home, aller than most girls but just as loving.

**Garfield** - Red Bdl M 2 year old  
Playful, likes toys, loves to be petted, will follow you around but can also be shy sometimes.

## Seniors make greyt companions.

**Jesse** - Blk/F 8 years old  
Calm and gentle, sweet older girl wants a loving home. I am cat friendly and I like soft toys.

**Cinnamon** - Red/F 10 years old  
My guardians gave me up because they couldn't stay together any longer. Now I need another forever home. I'm a good girl and I don't act 10. I am playful and give lots of love and attention.

## ADOPTIONS

For the month of November there were a record number of 14 adoptions.

11/18/01 - Chase (Chases Diamond) Adopted by Ann Harlow and 4 cats.

11/20/01 - Tigger Adopted by the Leffew Family, Martina, Alan, Amanda & Travis, also greyhounds Hettie and Nate.

11/27/01 - GQ Adopted by the Wier Family, Steve, Bobbie and Allie, also greyhounds Dakota and Trey.

11/27/01 - Cheyenne (River Cheyenne) & Allure (River Allure) Adopted by June and Norman Thode.

11/29/01 - Lady Rhonda (U Too Rhonda) Adopted by the Padovani Family, Mark, Gail, Celine & Ethan and greyhound Sir Bailey.

11/30/01 - Oreo (Brazo Oreodelite) Adopted by Nancy Baker & greyhound/Saluki Sierra.

12/7/01 - Jack Adopted by Diane Lee, Pointer mix Andie, a cockatoo & a gray parrot.

12/14/01 - Stoney (River Step Stone) Adopted by the Blanks Family, Margie, Pat, Sidnie, Thomas & 2 cats.

12/14/01 - Max Adopted by Donna and Wayne Braun.

12/14/01 - Nippy (MNJ Free Nippy) Adopted by the Farmer Family, Dennis, Carolyn & Casey.



## TRUST - A DEADLY DISEASE

From the Greyhound Project Website

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog. A hideous, stealthy thing just waiting for 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 Greyhound home that it could not be trusted. The people, who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. A newly rescued racer may steal food off the counters, destroy something expensive, chase cats and must never be allowed off his lead!

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the advice, you escorted your dog to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand. At home the house was "doggie proofed." Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separated, and a gate placed across the door to the living room. All windows and doors had been properly secured and signs placed in strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR".

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes a second after it was opened and that it really latched. "DON'T LET THE DOG OUT" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is NO!) You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and a disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about who you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment, you might lose him forever.

And so the weeks and months pass, with your Greyhound becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings

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

And then one of your friends suggests obedience class. You shake your head and remind her that your dog might run away if allowed off the lead, but you are reassured when she promises the events are held in a fenced area. And wonder of wonders, he did not run away, but came every time you called him!

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

Years pass—it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was new. He would never think of running out the door left open while you bring in the packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes an whistle to send him racing

back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes to close to the highway. (He still gets into the garbage, but nobody is perfect.)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often it takes much longer. He spies the neighbor dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping outdoors, jumping out windows, or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running—

Stopped in an instant, stilled forever—your heart is broken at the sight of his still beautiful body. The disease is trust. The final outcome, hit by a car.

No matter how much or how long you train and teach your dog, there may come a point where their instincts will win over learned behavior. Please don't be fooled into a false sense of security with your Greyhound. They are depending on you to keep them safe now and forever.

You may think that this is an extreme case, that you would never let your dog out without a lead when you are not in a fenced in area, but even that trip from the car to the house or from the house to the car is putting your Greyhound's life in jeopardy. It only takes a couple of seconds more to put that leash on before stepping outside with your Greyhound.



## *Our Thoughts are with you...*

Kathy & HD Shallenberger lost their Great Dane/German Shepherd 'Zeus' on 11/11/01.

Allie Adams lost her greyhound 'J.J.' on 12/14/01

Laura & Michael Mendicino lost their greyhound 'Barbaresco' on 12/9/01.

Anne & Mark Mitchell sent a donation for,  
The Skarnulis Family  
In memory of "Sugar"  
and  
The Grissom Family  
In memory of "Snow White"

Please accept this donation in memory of "Downy Woolley". Downey helped the Anderson Family become better acquainted with greyhounds. John, LouAnn and Alex fondly remember her gentle nature. Shelby and Violet are most grateful – she (Downy) helped them to find their forever home. Thanks, LouAnn Anderson



### 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.

Image courtesy of The Greyhound Gang



## *Solace for Grief*

By Marilyn D Barry

I'll lend you for a little while  
My grandest dog He said  
For you to love while she's alive  
And morn for when she's dead.

It may be one or twenty years  
Or days or months you see  
But will you till I take her back  
Take care of her for me?

She'll bring her charms to gladden you  
And should her stay be brief  
You'll have treasured memories  
As solace for your grief.

I cannot promise she will stay  
Since all from earth return  
But there are lessons taught on earth  
I want this dog to learn.

I've looked the wide world over  
In my search for teachers true  
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes  
With trust I have selected you.

Now will you give her your total love?  
Nor think the labor vain  
Nor hate me when I come  
To take her back again?

I know you'll give her tenderness  
And love will bloom each day  
And for the happiness you've shown  
Forever grateful stay.

# GPA Central Texas

*Enclosed is my donation to help with greyhound expenses  
REMEMBER: It is tax deductible!!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you want a receipt mailed to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual membership (\$15.00/year)

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one year individual membership in the chapter, including newsletter.*

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