

Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies author to visit Austin Lee Livingood seminar being planned

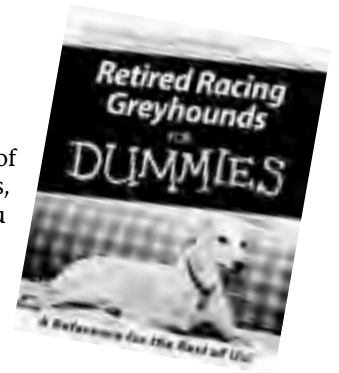
WHO: Lee Livingood, author of *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*

WHAT: Training seminar

WHEN: Saturday, April 30, 2005

WHERE: Location to be determined

Circle the date on your calendar and reserve the weekend of April 30. Lee Livingood, author of *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*, will be in Austin presenting training for greyhound rescuers, fosters, and foster-wannabes. Details about location and cost will be available soon, but be sure you reserve that weekend for a very special experience.



Lenox introduces limited edition greyhound sculptures

"Jeweled Devotion" by Lenox was introduced at the GPA National convention in September. Crafted of Lenox ivory fine china accented with 24 karat gold and set with gem-cut crystals, "Jeweled Devotion" is authorized by Greyhound Pets of America, and 2.5% of all sales of this sculpture go to GPA's Emily Griffin Memorial Injury Fund, from which all chapters are eligible to request funds.

Pre-order forms are available at www.gpacentraltexas.org or www.greyhoundpets.org. Orders also may be placed directly at www.lenox.com. Sculptures must be ordered by January 31, 2005. The cost for "Jeweled Devotion" is \$58.50 plus S&H and sales tax.



No membership meeting or meet & greets in early January

Due to the New Year's holiday, there will be no membership meeting in January. Join GPA-CT for the next monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on Monday, February 7, at Town Lake Animal Center.

The meet & greets scheduled for January 1 at Petco-Central (Hancock Center) and January 2 at Petco-Round Rock are also cancelled. These meet & greets will resume in February as scheduled.

Board meeting relocates

While Whole Foods Market is moving into their new corporate offices at 6th & Lamar, the GPA-CT Board of Directors meeting normally held there will return to la Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, for the January 11 meeting.

It is not know at this time if we will be able to return to Whole Foods in the future, so check the newsletter and Web site for information on future Board of Directors meeting locations.

KEY TO PERSONALS

R	red
W	white
BLK	black
BLU	blue
FW	fawn
HARL	harlequin
BDL	brindle
M	male
F	female
y	years
mo	months
CF	cat friendly
PCF	possibly cat friendly
NCF	not cat friendly
SDF	small dog friendly
NDF	not small dog friendly

Personals

AMBER

F,BDL/F/6y

A real sweetheart, beautiful and well behaved. Cat safe? Not known at this time.

BENE

R,BDL/M/5y

My foster mom calls me "molto bene" because I am such a good boy. I really like it when my foster family takes me for a walk, or on a car ride or to a Meet & Greet at Petco. I am a big, handsome, brindle boy and I thrive on all the attention I get when we are out and about. My philosophy of life — "It's all good." So if you are looking for "uno bene ragazzo" or a good boy, I would love to meet you.

BONANZA

R,BDL/M/7y

Bonanza is a big, playful boy who smiles, chatters, and snaps his teeth when he's happy — which is all the time! He loves to play with stuffed animals, and he "collects" them on his bed when he's done playing. Bonanza is very affectionate and gives hugs to any humans who let him (very gently jumps up and wraps his front legs around your waist). He loves neck and ear scratches and has been known to sneak into his foster parents' bed at night to snuggle. Bonanza is not cat friendly and would do best in a home with another dog.



Bonanza

CARAMEL

FW,W/F/9y/NCF

Caramel is very loving, enjoys humans and gets along well with other dogs. She will do just about anything for a treat! Sustained an injury to her right rear foot – walks and runs fine on it but sometimes favors it.

CHAMP II

BDL/M/3y

Champ is very affectionate and wants to be wherever his humans are. He wags his tail a lot and loves to get hugs, kisses, and praise. He is very snuggly and likes to sleep in bed with his foster parents. Champ loves to play with toys and will play fetch and tug-of-war for hours. Champ would do best in a home with one or two other dogs (preferably his foster sister, Honeycomb) and no small children.

DINK

BLK/F/6y/NCF/NDF

Curious, playful and extremely loving, Dink has a quirky and charming personality. Shows alpha tendencies, but has mellowed some and enjoys being one of the pack. A high prey drive makes her not cat or small dog friendly.

GRAYSON

BDL/M/3y/NCF/NDF

Grayson is an energetic yet loving dog who has stolen his foster parents' hearts. He is a highly intelligent dog who recently earned his AKC "Canine Good Citizen" certification. Grayson plays hard, but appropriately, with the other greyhounds in his foster home. He's developed a fondness for the couch, but still sleeps on his own bed at night. He hasn't been cat or small dog tested, but shows a high prey drive with squirrels, lizards, squeaky toys, etc. Grayson needs a special forever home with interactive humans (but no small children) who will continue his training.

HONEYCOMB

R/F/3y/NCF

Honeycomb is shy at first but learns to trust her humans quickly. She's a very happy hound who smiles (really!) and wants to be where the people are, always looking for neck scratches and treats. She gets along well with the other five greyhounds in her foster home and her ideal home will have at least one other dog, preferably her foster brother, Champ II. Honeycomb is not cat friendly.

MARLEY

BLK/F/6y

Possibly cat friendly. Returned because she is a counter and table surfer.

NIKKI

Very high spirited and charming. Learning rapidly about the niceties of living in a home. A real cutie! Cat safe? Not known at this time.

If dogs wrote our New Year's resolutions

by GPA-CT Board Member Pam Cook

It's that season again: time to take a look at ourselves and find that we, inevitably, fall short. Or, as our teachers and parents used to tell us, we're not living up to our full potential. Well, we know that! Who does?! Mozart, Albert Einstein, GIN's Anne Finch, Hank Aaron. Maybe Joan Baez or that guy who started Wendy's. Most of us have a flaw or two we'd like to remedy. If I were to make resolutions, they'd probably involve a low-carb diet, more frequent use of the vacuum cleaner, less frequent use of plastic money, punctuality, feeling more kindly toward my fellow Mopac drivers, thinking before I volunteer, and (at some point yet to be determined) completely giving up procrastination. And that's just a start, which is why I don't make New Year's resolutions, except for other people, such as my husband and the drivers on Mopac.

This year, I considered how our pets might see me, warts and all. I know the cats will never be satisfied. (They're cats. Duh.) But caninally speaking, there's Maxie, a smart and smiley old corgi mix with a heart of gold; Skippy, our one-eyed, socially inept, totally kissable whippet/terrier; yappity white-gloved TLAC death row rescue Karma, the only known survivor of a lab and dachshund pairing; and lovely greyhound Faith, the Jamboree speedster, whose inclination to gobble kitties has really subsided since last spring's close encounter with 15-pound Eli and his wolverine-like claws. Faith, Karma, Skippy and Maxie would undoubtedly come up with a unique

agenda for my rehabilitation in 2005. Such as...

1. Stay home from work more often, or at the very least go in late. Morning undercover snuggles, followed by a snooze, are especially nice when there's a nip in the air.

2. Give up power-walking and take up strolling. How's a dog supposed to keep track of who's been at the hydrant when Mom drags us past all the interesting scenery at the impossible pace of 3 miles an hour? Research shows that the ideal move-to-sniff ratio is about 1:4. Trust us. We've got the data.

3. Throw out the nail clippers. Go cold turkey. Do it now. There are support groups that can help you with this.

4. Throw out the vacuum cleaner. It is evil. Do it now. There are support groups that can help you with this.

5. Just once, let us at the Ozarka delivery man. Those bottles he takes away are worth six bucks apiece. That'd buy a lot of Greenies. (By the way, please avoid running out of Greenies. What, you can't mark your calendar or have a reminder tattooed on your forearm?)

6. Stop warning the squirrels. It's not fair, and you know it.

7. If the low-carb diet means that you feed us your fries, we're okay with that one.

8. In the car, give us a heads up before you turn. We're tired of looking stupid because you suddenly decided we needed to go another direction.

9. Become adept at petting with one hand and keyboarding/washing dishes/using a chain saw with the other. Multitasking is necessary nowadays, and practice makes perfect.

10. Remember that you're everything in the world to us, and cut yourself a little slack. We wouldn't trade you for anyone, except maybe that guy who started Wendy's, and then only if he brought home doggie bags every night. On second thought, even he and an endless supply of supersized fries couldn't take your place.

Wishing everyone a year of hound-hugging happiness,

— Pam Cook



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*Please help GPA-CT
thank them all year long
by utilizing their services
and purchasing their
products when you can.*

Winter coats warm galgos

by GPA-CT Board Member Pam Cook

Our gift of 46 coats, most of them handmade by the fabulous GPA-CT sewing circle, arrived in Madrid and were quickly distributed to needy pups. Nuria Blanco de Andres of our sister refuge, Amigos de los Galgos, let us know how pleased she was to receive the coats and sent hugs to everyone who helped. Two handmade tote bags stitched and painted by Vicky Stephens will be sold to help cover vet bills.

A special gift from GPA-CT member Evelyn Rieser more than covered shipping costs of the three boxes.

Evelyn and her greyhound Emma made a generous donation that was split between GPA-CT's general fund and the Paws Across the Pond project. Forty-six Spanish pups are warmer today thanks to our wonderful members!

Allopurinol, the only available treatment for Leishmania, a parasitically-spread illness that afflicts so many of the galgos, is badly needed in Madrid. If you're interested in donating, please email Pam Cook at <pam@gpacentraltexas.org>.



Emma Rieser models one of the 46 coats sent to the Amigos de los Galgos refuge in Spain.

Artificial Sweetener Xylitol can be Toxic to Dogs

Sugar-free candy and gum may be sweet enough for you...but they can possibly be toxic to your animal companions. According to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), xylitol — a sweetener found in certain sugar-free chewing gum, candies and other products — can potentially cause serious, even life-threatening problems for pets. Based on data collected from the 40-plus related cases the center has managed since last July, canines who have ingested significant amounts of gum or candy solely or largely containing xylitol may develop a sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination and seizures. These signs can develop quite rapidly, at times less than 30 minutes after ingestion. It is important that pet owners seek veterinary treatment immediately. The APCC advises pet owners to be especially diligent about keeping candy, gum or other foods containing xylitol out of their animals' reach.

Antifreeze safety update

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is currently unaware of any well-controlled published scientific research demonstrating that dogs can be consistently protected from poisoning through the addition of denatonium benzoate as a bittering agent added to antifreeze.

It is crucial that pet owners not be given a false sense of security when using antifreeze with a bittering agent. While such products may be less toxic for households with pets, there is no scientific proof that they are in fact safe.

As a result, pet owners should continue to take steps to ensure the safety of their pets from antifreeze poisoning, regardless of whether the antifreeze they use contains a bittering agent or not.

Keeping antifreeze in a child-proof container and out of reach of dogs, repairing leaking hoses, and wiping up spills are three examples of steps that can and should be taken to protect your pets.

Adoptions

DATE	FOSTER NAME (RACING NAME) [NEW NAME]	ADOPTED BY
Dec. 3	Dakota (D Desert Dakota)	Claire and David vanGilder, and their three awesome cats
Dec. 11	Prancer	Cindy Shirkey
Dec. 11	Ruffles [Joy]	Darryl and Amorette Capparelli, and greyhound Happiness
Dec. 14	Bullet (RZ Hammer)	Steve and Bobbie Wier, greyhounds Trey, Spice, GQ, Corky, and border collie, Belle



In Memoriam

Kali (November) — beloved greyhound of Hannah and Paul Baxter

Pet poison safety tips for the holidays

The holidays are a time to eat, drink, decorate and share good times with friends and family. However, the same treats and trimmings considered harmless for humans can be hazardous to your pet's health. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center is offering pet owners some helpful hints to keep their pets happy and healthy during the holiday season.

- Holiday sweets with chocolate are not for pets. Depending on the dose ingested, chocolate (bakers, semi sweet, milk and dark) can be potentially poisonous to many animals. In general, the less sweet the chocolate, the more toxic it could be. In fact, unsweetened baking chocolate contains almost seven times more theobromine as milk chocolate. Vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, hyperactivity and increased thirst, urination and heart rate can be seen with the ingestion of as little as 1/4 ounce of baking chocolate by a 10-pound dog.

- Keep your pet on its normal diet. Any change of diet, even for one meal, may give your dog or cat severe indigestion and diarrhea. This is particularly true for older animals that have more delicate digestive systems and nutritional requirements.

- Don't give pets holiday leftovers and keep pets out of the garbage. Poultry bones can splinter and cause blockages. Greasy, spicy and fatty foods can cause stomach upset; spoiled or moldy foods could cause food poisoning signs, tremors or seizures.

- Alcohol and pets do NOT mix. Place unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot reach

them. If ingested, the animal could become very sick and weak and may go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.

- Keep aluminum foil and cellophane candy wrappers away from pets. They can cause vomiting and intestinal blockage.

- Be careful with holiday floral arrangements. Lilies are commonly used and all varieties, including Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Stargazer and Casa Blanca can cause kidney failure in cats. Safe alternatives can include artificial flowers made from silk or plastic.

- Common Yuletide plants such as mistletoe and holly berries can be potentially toxic to pets. Should a cat or dog eat mistletoe, they could possibly suffer gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. Holly can cause vomiting, nausea, diarrhea and lethargy if ingested.

- Poinsettias are considered to be very low in toxicity. However, they could cause mild vomiting or nausea if ingested by your pet.

- Christmas tree water may contain fertilizers, which if ingested, can cause stomach upset. Stagnant tree water can also act as a breeding ground for bacteria and if ingested a pet could end up with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

- If ingested, decorations such as ribbons or tinsel can become lodged in the intestines and cause intestinal obstruction. This is a very common problem, particularly with cats.

- Consider decorating your tree with ornaments that are relatively less enticing to pets, such as dried non-toxic flowers, wood, fabric or pinecones.

UPCOMING GPA-CT EVENTS

Friday-Sunday,
March 4-6, 2005
Texas Home & Garden
Show
Austin Convention Center

Saturday,
April 30, 2005
Lee Livingood seminar
Austin area (location TBD)

Please check
www.gpacentraltexas.org
for the most up-to-date
information on these and
other GPA-CT events.

**Greyhound Pets
of America-Central Texas**
P.O. Box 10069
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Web site

www.gpacentraltexas.org

Email announcement list

To join, send a blank email to
gpa-ct-subscribe@egroups.com

Paws & Reflect:

**The monthly newsletter
of GPA-CT**

Submissions to Paws & Reflect are due the 10th of the month. Send your story or photos to newsletter@gpacentraltexas.org. GPA-CT reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertisements in Paws & Reflect are accepted. Please contact Donna Seago at newsletter@gpacentraltexas.org for ad rates. GPA-CT reserves the right to decline any advertisement.

Thanks to Mike Spann and Horizon Graphics for donating copying services, and to Gwen Pickett and JC Curry at Allstar Copying & Printing for donating mailing services for the monthly newsletter.

Letters to the editor are accepted for publication in Paws & Reflect. Letters must contain your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters will be printed on a space-available basis (300 word limit). GPA-CT reserves the right to edit all letters for length, clarity and potentially libelous statements, and may reject publication of any letter for any reason. Letters published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of GPA-CT.

Ring in the New Year with a Greenies order!

We'll place another group order for Greenies on January 15, 2005. These are bulk boxes of 150 petite, 90 regular, or 50 large Greenies for \$66, including shipping. If you'd like an order form, please email Pam Cook at pam@gpacentraltexas.org. She'll need to receive your check before the order date to include you in this buy!

Thanks to all for participating in Chuy's holiday parade

Thank you one and all for the "greyt" turnout for the Chuy's Children Giving to Children Parade on Saturday, Nov. 27. There were dogs and people everywhere! In the parade we saw cheerleaders, Corvettes, motorcycles, balloons, Elsie the Borden cow, floats, marching bands, and even an Elvis sighting. A fun time was had by all.

There are several "thank you"s that I would like to pass along. Luci Miller at Miller Blueprint was kind enough to donate their services to provide an enlargement so that the cactus could be sized correctly for the float.

GPA-CT members Gary and Lana Henley put in countless hours sawing, painting, and stapling readying the float for the parade. The Henleys' neighbors, Gene and BJ Gatlin, allowed GPA-CT to use their barn to store and prepare the float.

Last but not least, I have to thank the membership, because it is your participation that makes this event a success. Each year through good times and bad, good weather or bad, you've always come out and supported the event and made it a success. THANK YOU!

— GPA-CT Foster Coordinator Bob Trapp

Jamboree t-shirts

2004 Greyhound Jamboree t-shirts are still available in all sizes. Send an email to gpa-ct@gpacentraltexas.org to request details on where to buy your Jamboree t-shirt.

2005 greyhound calendars still available

Celebrating Greyhounds calendars are still available, though the number is dwindling rapidly. Contact Sally at 301-8236 or placement@gpacentraltexas.org. Wall calendars are \$12 and the very useful desk model is \$15. No where else can you find as many great pictures of greyhounds in one location!

News from the North

Belinda Harden, who adopted 10-year old foster, River, writes from Wisconsin that they are happily getting settled. Her new job is terrific and all of her family loves River. He wasn't too sure the first time he saw snow, but has decided it's OK, and he loves Belinda's niece and nephew. Our very best wishes to Belinda and River. We miss you, but wish you happy trails!

New GPA-CT ID tags available for members

New GPA-CT tags for your hounds' collars are now available. The new tags have the correct contact phone numbers which will help in recovery of your dogs should they be separated from their humans. Adoption agreements with GPA-CT require your greyhound to wear a GPA-CT identification tag at all times.

If you haven't picked up your new tags, they are available at Meet & Greets and membership meetings, or you may contact Sally McIntosh at placement@gpacentraltexas.org.

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GPA-CT Events Calendar: January 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 No Meet & Greet at Petco-Central (Hancock Center) this month due to holiday
2 No Meet & Greet at Petco-Round Rock this month due to holiday	3 No monthly membership meeting this month due to holiday	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, la Madeleine (3418 N. Lamar)	12	13	14	15 Meet & Greet, 11am-2pm, Petco-South (Brodie Lane)/Meet & Greet, Noon-3pm, Petco-Temple
16 Meet & Greet, Noon-3pm, Petco-Lakeline	17	18	19	20	21	22 Meet & Greet, Noon-3pm, Petco-North (Arboretum)
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29



a **DOG** teaches a boy fidelity,
PERSEVERANCE,
 and to turn around
THREE TIMES
 before lying down.
 —Robert Benchley

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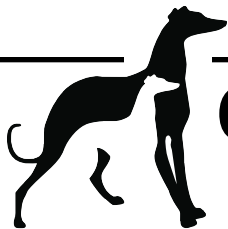
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- Membership (\$25 yearly)
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- Donation to Permanent Emergency Medical Fund

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