

Workshop scheduled for April 30

Lee Livingood: The Couch Potato Trainer™

On April 30, GPA-Central Texas will offer a day of training with Lee Livingood, teacher and author of *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* and *Running with the Big Dogs: The Gentle Art of Turning Your Retired Racing Greyhound into Your Best Friend*. This full-day seminar provides basic information on behavior and learning specifically for the retired racing greyhound. If you're a foster or first-time guardian, or if you have your own "couch potato" whose behavior needs a little sprucing up, this is the workshop for you!

The course fee of \$50 per person includes snack breaks. You may bring your lunch or request a box lunch for a small additional charge. Registration will be limited (we are negotiating our meeting space in a convenient Austin location, which will dictate attendance), but a maximum of 30 persons can be accommodated. Email Pam Cook at <pam@gpacentraltexas.org> for a registration form.

Lee Livingood will offer demonstrations of simple techniques for teaching basic skills. While the format is geared specifically to greyhound placement and adoption, the information and techniques are easily adapted to any breed placement situation and to greyhounds already in their forever homes. The morning will focus on behavior, learning theory, and training methods/skills. In the afternoon we will turn our attention to the specific needs and goals of foster programs and foster families. Lee will close with some tips on "training the trainers" — how we can teach others to work with dogs in a foster setting. Here's the agenda:

- 8-9am** Sign in/registration/coffee
- 9-10:15am** Behavior and learning theory. The "wolf" within. Evaluating our relationships and communication with another species.
- 10:30-10:45am** Break
- 11-12:15pm** Being a Couch Potato Trainer. How to make training fun and easy.

12:15-1:15pm
1:30-2:45pm

2:45-3pm
3-4:15pm

4:15-5pm

Includes demonstrations of training techniques using untrained and semi-trained dogs.

Lunch
Being a Couch Potato Trainer (continued)

Break
Fostering Greyt Adoptions. Using your foster program to make dogs more adoptable. Dealing with mild behavior problems. Training others to train dogs in the foster or kennel situation.

Like most dog lovers, Lee Livingood has been owned by a dog since the day she was born. She's been training companion animals for more than forty years and has lived and worked with adult shelter and rehomed dogs for 35 years. A companion animal behavior specialist and consultant on companion animal behavior and on screening, placement, and rehoming of adult dogs, she received the 2001 Dog Writers Association of America Maxwell Award winner for her widely read *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*. She writes on dog behavior and learning for *Celebrating Greyhounds* and other dog-related publications and is an occasional contributor to the *Bengal Bulletin* and other cat publications.

Livingood is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and the Association of Companion Animal Behavior Counselors. She travels throughout the U.S. and Canada speaking and conducting workshops on various elements of dog training and behavior. A graduate of Franklin and Marshall College with a major in community organization, Livingood spent 20 years as a program administrator, lobbyist, and U.S. Senate

February membership meeting to feature greyhound grooming

Please join us for at the GPA-CT monthly membership meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 7 in the Davenport Building at Town Lake Animal Center.

This month's meeting will feature greyhound grooming. If you just don't have the nerve to trim your dogs nails, here's your chance to have someone else do it for you!

For a suggested donation of only \$5 per dog, your greyhound will receive a nail trim and ear cleaning, followed by a luxurious massage with a Zoom Groom, and a wipedown.

Teeth cleaning demonstrations will also be conducted.

Come pamper your pooch and make a contribution to a good cause at the same time!



staffer before turning her life-long passion for companion animals and writing into a second career.

She shares her life with her very tolerant husband, two retired racers, a Galgo Español, and two Bengal cats.

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

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.

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.

NIKKI

W,BDL/F/4y

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.



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What promotes bloat? (Part 1)

by Shannon Wilkinson [Copyright 2005 Whole Dog Journal. Reprinted with permission, Belvoir Media Group, LLC. For subscription and other information, call (800) 424-7887.]

Imagine seeing your dog exhibit some strange symptoms, rushing him to the vet within minutes, only to have the vet proclaim his case to be hopeless and recommend euthanasia. For too many dog owners, that's the story of bloat, an acute medical condition characterized by a rapid accumulation of gas in the stomach.

Bloat, or more technically, gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV), is a top killer of dogs, especially of deep-chested giant and large breeds. A study published in *Veterinary Surgery* in 1996 estimated that 40,000 to 60,000 dogs in the United States are affected with GDV each year with a mortality rate of up to 33 percent.

Gas accumulation alone is known as bloat, or dilatation. The accumulation of gas sometimes causes the stomach to rotate or twist on its axis; this is referred to as torsion or volvulus. Bloat can occur on its own, or as a precursor to torsion. In this article, to simplify the terms, bloat and GDC are used interchangeably.

Both conditions can be life-threatening, although it often takes longer for a straight-forward gastric dilatation without volvulus to become critical. "Bloats without torsion can last for minutes to hours, even days in low-level chronic situations, without it becoming life-threatening. But with torsion, the dog can progress to shock rapidly, even within minutes," explains Alicia Faggella, DVM, DACVECC, a board-certified specialist in veterinary emergency and critical care.

"A dog can go into shock from bloat because the stomach expands, putting pressure on several large arteries and veins. Blood does not get through the body as quickly as it should," continues Dr. Faggella. In addition, the blood supply gets cut off to the stomach, which can cause tissue to die, while toxic products build up.

While some less acute cases of bloat may resolve themselves, it often takes an experienced veterinarian to know just how serious the problem may be, and whether surgical intervention is required to save the dog's life.

Life threatening emergency

Various studies have estimated the mortality rate for dogs who have experienced an episode of GDV, and while the results varied, they were all frighteningly high — from about 18 percent to more than 30 percent. The rates used to be much higher, however.

"Veterinarians over the past two decades have reduced dramatically the postoperative fatality rate from gastric dilatation-volvulus from more than 50 percent to less than 20 percent by using improved therapy for shock, safer anesthetic agents, and better surgical techniques," says Lawrence Glickman, VMD, DrPH, and lead researcher on a number of studies related to GDV at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

In many acute cases of GDV, surgery is the only option to save the life of the animal. In addition to repositioning the stomach, it may also be "tacked" to the abdominal wall in a procedure called gastropexy. While dogs who have had gastropexy may experience gastric dilatation again, it is impossible for the stomach to rotate, as in volvulus or torsion.

Causes of bloat

Theories about what causes GDV abound, including issues related to anatomy, environment, and care. Research from Purdue University, particularly over the past 10 years, has shown that there are certain factors and practices that appear to increase the risk of GDV, some of which fly in the face of conventional wisdom.

"We don't know exactly why GDV happens," says Dr. Faggella. Some people do all of the "wrong" things, and their dogs don't experience it, she says, while some do all of what we think are the "right" things, and their dogs do.

The most widely recognized and accepted risk factor in anatomical - being a larger, deep-chested dog. When viewed from the side, these dogs have chest cavities that are significantly longer from spine to sternum, when compared to the width of the chest cavity viewed from the front.

This body shape may increase the risk of bloat because of a change in the relationship between the esophagus and the stomach. "In dogs with deeper abdomens, the stretching of the gastric ligaments over time may allow the stomach to descend relative to the esophagus, thus increasing the gastroesophageal angle, and this may promote bloat," says Dr. Glickman.

But it isn't just large- and giant-breed dogs that can bloat; smaller breeds do as well. "I've seen dachshunds, yorkies, and other small terrier breeds with bloat," says Dr. Faggella. She emphasizes that all dog guardians should be familiar with the signs of bloat, and be ready to rush their dog to the vet if any of the symptoms are present.

Likelihood of an incident of bloat seems to increase with age. Purdue reports that there is a 20 percent increase in risk for each year increase in age. This may be related to increased weakness, over time, in the ligaments holding the stomach in place, Dr. Glickman explains.

Another key risk factor is having a close relative that has experienced GDV. According to one of the Purdue studies that focused on nondietary risk factors for GDV, there is a 63 percent increase in risk associated with having a first degree relative (sibling, parent, or offspring) who experienced bloat.

Personality and stress also seem to play a role. Dr. Glickman's research found that risk of GDV was increased by 257 percent in fearful dogs versus nonfearful dogs. Dogs described as having a happy personality bloated less frequently than other dogs. "These findings seem to be consistent from study to study," adds Dr. Glickman.

Dogs who eat rapidly and are given just one large meal per day have an increased susceptibility to GDV than other dogs. The Purdue research found that "for both large- and giant-breed dogs, the risk of GDV was highest for dogs fed a larger volume of food once daily."

[to be continued in a future issue of Paws & Reflect]

A GREYT BIG "THANK YOU!" TO EVERYONE WHO HAS MADE A DONATION TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND

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Spotlight on two special dogs: Caramel & Dink

by GPA-CT Member Robert Wagner, Caramel & Dink's foster dad

Caramel came to GPA-Central Texas from the illegal side of racing. Therein, she suffered an injury to her back right foot; somehow, the foot was crushed. By the time she became a GPA-CT foster dog, the bones had set and it was deemed best for her to not break the bones again as that would, more than likely, just aggravate the problem. Consequently, her foster parents often joke (lovingly nonetheless) that Caramel is from our "scratch-and-dent" model line. Caramel has an interesting take on playing. She likes to lull her toys into a false sense of security and, just when the toy thinks it is safe, then pounce on them. Caramel is a laid-back girl, but she'll have nothing to do with cats as they are her sworn enemy. (She says it has something to do with their pernickety attitude.) Her idea of a good time is to lay on a dog cushion and have a workout with a Nylabone. Her second favorite activity is the "two-legged lap-dog love-in" session. (This is when Caramel's rear legs are on the ground and her front legs are in your lap.) She especially likes this activity if it comes with a good ear rub. Caramel walks very nicely on a leash and becomes quite animated when the leash is produced.



Caramel

Dink (a.k.a. River Dink) is an accomplished retired racer with 190 known races. (See <http://www.greyhound-data.com/d?l=373425>.)

She finished in the top three in one-third of her races! But she has been very slow in her current race — the one to find a forever home. Her foster parents feel that some of the characteristics that made her a good racer have interfered with her ability to find that home. Specifically, Dink is very single-minded about "the chase," thus when she sees a toy, she must have the toy. One can almost hear her thinking: "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" So when she sets her mind on something, she can be very stubborn and fixated. In the past, when she has been at Meet & Greets, she is overwhelmed by all the delightful distractions inside Petco. Consequently, she'll start pulling on her leash to gain access to the tempting fruit and no amount of reassurance will dissuade her from her quest. Should she actually grab a soft plush toy, she will have it gutted in seconds. Despite this high drive for stuffed toys,



Dink

Dink is very sweet and affectionate. And we've learned that if we buy the right stuffed toy (think ballistic nylon) she has a blast playing with it. One of her favorite tricks is to scamper across the room towards the unsuspecting toy, slam her two front paws onto the toy and proceed to plow it across the room. She also loves playing "Let's not let the foster dad put on his shoes and socks." When he tries to slip them on, she just crowds him and begs: Love me, love me, love me! She really enjoys taking toys into the back yard for some laps. You can just see the joy in her heart when she is running around the yard with a toy in her mouth. While Dink has never been formally cat-tested, it would surprise her foster parents if she was cat friendly. She has definitely treated all prior encounters with small fuzzy moving things as objects for disembowelment!

Adoptions

DATE	FOSTER NAME (RACING NAME) [NEW NAME]	ADOPTED BY
Dec. 27	.....Marley (Brazo Rickashay)	.....Denise, John, Phaedra and Garrett Koontz, greyhound Pecos and cats
Dec. 29	.....Nikki Too (Tahoe Penny Anti) [Mona]	.....Sally McIntosh, greyhounds Sweetie and Gus, saluki mix Murphy and borzoi Sascha
Jan. 5	.....Amber	.....Ashley Craft and Jay Wood, and fox terrier Jezebel
Jan. 8	.....Champ II	.....Rachel Cayton and Ryan Barden
Jan. 8	.....Honeycomb (RZ Honeycomb)	.....Rachel Cayton and Ryan Barden



In Memoriam

Darren (Dec. 18) — beloved greyhound of Cheryl Hoyson
 Susie [Black I Suzy] (Dec. 26) — beloved greyhound of Ron and Sue Wilcox
 Molly (Dec. 27) — beloved greyhound of Tonna and Steve Marcyes
 Rex (Dec. 31) — beloved greyhound of Kris and Donna Seago

Greyt Donations

Simply stated, without your generous donations, GPA-Central Texas wouldn't exist. Beginning with this issue, GPA-CT will acknowledge all donations given (starting January 1, 2005), in *Paws & Reflect*. (While intended to be a comprehensive list, please forgive us if we overlook any contributions. It is by no means intentional.)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND DONATIONS

Contributions to the Emergency Medical Fund in 2004 totaled \$2,467. Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to this fund.

John & Paige Tobin, in memory of Rex Seago
 Glen Bridge, in memory of Rex Seago
 Glen Bridge, in memory of Trey Wier
 Kris & Donna Seago, in memory of Rex Seago

Thanks to all GPA-CT foster families, without whom GPA-CT's work isn't possible.

Thanks to everyone who adds to the donation boxes at the GPA-CT Meet & Greets.

Thanks to everyone who so generously purchases raffle tickets, calendars, cookbooks, t-shirts, etc.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers their time at various GPA-CT events.

Thanks to everyone who uses their Randall's card and has designated GPA-CT as a beneficiary.

About Molly

Steve & I would like to thank each of you for your thoughts and prayers for our sweet angel Molly. Molly was a beautiful red six-year-old brindle, diagnosed on October 10, 2004, with osteosarcoma to her right humerus. The wonderful doctors at Great Oaks Dr. Animal Hospital did not give us much hope for Molly and we made the very difficult decision not to amputate or treat with chemotherapy. We were fortunate to have the assistance of many, many new friends at the Circle of Grey forum (a club we hope none of you have to join). Despite lots of pain medication, herbs, acupuncture, and lots and lots of prayer, Molly could not tolerate the severe pain. Unfortunately we took Molly to the Rainbow Bridge on December 27, 2004.

We are going to heal for a while and then get another grey. In closing, we are sharing this poem (author unknown) with you —

"You haven't lived until you've found unfamiliar courage after getting the cancer diagnosis from the vet, and suddenly through your grief you love your best friend in a whole new way. It's, ironically, a time of renewal. Your bonds grow stronger despite her health growing weaker. You cook for her. You talk to her more. You leave work early to come home. You slow down on your walks because she has to. The hugs you give her are much, much longer. You take lots and lots of pictures — some sweet, some funny, and some terribly telling. You begin memorizing: her smells, her sounds, the way her fur feels. Maybe you pray more, or start praying for the first time. You come to understand that the breaking of your heart is also a rite of passage."

— Tonna, Steve and Wantabe's Maggie & Miller Marcyes, and Molly running free of pain with her foster brother, Trey

UPCOMING GPA-CT EVENTS

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

March 12-19, 2004
 Texas Greyhound
 Association Spring Meet
 Lorena, Texas

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**
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Web site
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Email announcement list
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gpact-subscribe@egroups.com

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reject publication of any
letter for any reason. Letters
published in this newsletter
do not necessarily reflect the
position of GPA-CT.

A note regarding GPA-CT membership renewal notices recently mailed

from GPA-CT President Glen Bridge

Recently GPA-Central Texas mailed membership renewal notices to many of our members. These notices were sent out after a considerable period of time had passed since the change in GPA-CT officers last April. Due to complications with GPA-CT membership data, I have been handling the membership data, rather than our executive secretary. This data needed to be converted from a previous computer system, and since that is what I do for a living, it seemed logical that I take on this responsibility. I soon fell behind with the mailings and am trying to get current with the renewals. The recent renewal notices were based on existing GPA-CT membership records, some of which were apparently inaccurate. From the feedback we are receiving in response to the renewal notices, some were sent in error to members who feel their membership is current. If you received a notice in error, please return it to GPA-CT with your current information and your records will be updated. Please excuse any inconvenience this may have caused.

Festival planned for TGA Spring Meet

Although we don't have a lot of details at this time, the Texas Greyhound Association is planning activities for retired racing greyhounds at their Spring Meet, March 12-19, 2005, in Lorena, Texas.

One of the activities will include racing on the track in Lorena, so start getting your greyhound in shape now! (GPA-CT playgroup is a great place to start those workouts. Having your grey in good shape will minimize injuries.)

Watch the GPA-CT Web site and email list for more details about the TGA Spring Meet as we get them.

Jamboree t-shirts

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

GPA-CT foster dogs on FOX 7 once again

GPA-CT's Placement Coordinator Sally McIntosh, along with one of GPA-CT's foster greyhounds, will appear at 7:50 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 25, on the "Pet of the Month" segment of FOX 7 News in the Morning.

This will make Sally's fourth appearance on FOX 7's morning show with GPA-CT foster greyhounds. Her previous appearances were with Grayson (Oct. 25, 2004), Champ II (Sept. 27, 2004), and Flite (June 28, 2004).

A Surprise Donation

Dear Mr. Bridge,

Each October, the Fun-Tier Kennel Club of Greater Killeen sponsors two American Kennel Club-sanctioned dog shows. Since the Fun-Tier Kennel Club is a not-for-profit organization, it distributes its profits to dog-related organizations and activities.

Even though the club prefers not to donate funds to a breed-specific organization, the membership feels that retired racing greyhounds are a unique situation, especially since one of the four-legged members is an ex-racer. Dorcas (aka Wildcat Dorcas) is a black female greyhound who has participated in nursing home visits and assisted with the club-sponsored Canine Good Citizen certification as the "strange dog." Over the past year, club members have witnessed her transformation from a frightened, timid dog to one that is outgoing and happy.

Enclosed is a check for \$500 from the Fun-Tier Kennel Club of Greater Killeen to the Greyhound Pets of America-Central Texas Emergency Medical Fund. Hopefully this contribution will enable an ex-racer find his "forever home."

Sincerely, Linda L. Stanley (President-elect, Fun-Tier Kennel Club of Greater Killeen; Member, Greyhound Pets of America-Central Texas; and Dorcas' mom)

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GPA-CT Events Calendar: February 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5 Meet & Greet, Noon-3pm, Petco-Central (Hancock Center)
6 Meet & Greet, Noon-3pm, Petco-Round Rock	7 Monthly membership meeting, 7pm, Town Lake Animal Center	8 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, la Madeleine (3418 N. Lamar)	9	10	11	12 Meet & Greet, Noon-4pm, Borders-Great Hills Station, 10225 Research, Austin
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Meet & Greet, 11am-2pm, Petco-South (Brodie Lane)/Meet & Greet, Noon-3pm, Petco-Temple
20 Meet & Greet, Noon-3pm, Petco-Lakeline	21	22	23	24	25	26 Meet & Greet, Noon-3pm, Petco-North (Arboretum)
27	28	1	2	3	4	5

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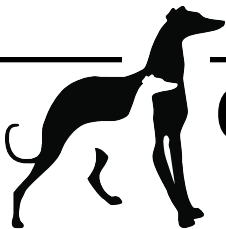
—Ben Williams



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- Donation to Permanent Emergency Medical Fund

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