

SPECIAL ISSUE

Greyhounds and kids

Editor's note: GPA-CT is pleased to present an issue filled with information regarding greyhounds and children. The majority of the information presented is reprinted with permission from Lee Livingood's Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies. Lee has also provided GPA-CT with her Safe Baby/Safe Dog and Safe Kids/Safe Dogs handouts for interested members. If you would like a copy of these handouts, please email newsletter@gpacentraltexas.org.

ARE THEY GOOD WITH CHILDREN?

Children and dogs are the stuff movies are made of. But is that truth or just more fiction? Greyhounds don't come with training wheels like a bicycle. If you haven't already taught your child how to interact properly with dogs, a greyhound isn't the dog to use to further your child's education.

Many, many retired racers live happily in homes with children. Although most retired racers generally respond well to older, quiet, considerate children, many retired racers have had no experience with small children or infants.

Expecting a retired racer to interact with children in the same way as a dog who was properly introduced to children as a young puppy is unfair. If you have young children or are expecting to have children, don't adopt any dog, especially a retired racer, unless you are absolutely certain you have the patience required to deal successfully with a dog and a child.

If you have children, keep in mind that greyhounds weren't built for the rough-and-tumble world of boisterous children. Greyhounds lack the padding that protects most other breeds from the roughness and harshness that a playful or improperly supervised child can wreak. Although children may prefer to play with a dog by wrestling or rolling around on the floor, greyhounds like to chase things and run. And they generally don't care if you join in or not.

Dogs and children are not a match made in heaven. Most people have inaccurate and unrealistic expectations about child/dog interactions. If you have a dog and a child, you have a tremendous responsibility to keep both the child and the dog safe.

Many retired racers are returned or surrendered because they have growled or snapped at a child. Because of this, many greyhound adoption groups now refuse to adopt to families with children under the age

of four. Some groups won't adopt to anyone with a child under six. Other groups have established required education programs for adopters with young children.

Before you adopt a retired racer, take a realistic look at your ability to manage your children and a dog and decide if you're being fair to yourself, your kids, and the dog.

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN OR ARE YOU PLANNING TO HAVE THEM?

A retired racer can be the ideal companion for the right child, and most live in homes with children. Because of their gentle nature and their preference for a calm environment, they do best in homes with quiet, well-mannered children who are school age or older.

Adopting a dog or puppy requires more time, commitment, and experience than most families realize. Keeping both young children and a dog safe and happy takes a lot of work. Wait until your children are grade school age before you add an adult dog to your family.

EXERCISING CAUTION WHEN INTRODUCING YOUR NEW HOUND TO YOUR CHILDREN

A retired racer may respond appropriately to small animals or children in a test situation and still react poorly to a child or small animal in your home. Always keep in mind that the test environment isn't the same as your home. The child or animal involved in the test may behave very differently from your child or animal at home. A racer that tests safe still needs careful supervision.

PICKING THE PERFECT HOUND

If you have children, be sure you bring them with you when you choose your retired racer. This is especially important if your children are under the age of five, boys
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Buy raffle tickets now for Lenox greyhound sculpture

Don't miss out on your opportunity to win the limited edition Lenox "Jeweled Devotion" greyhound sculpture with GPA-CT's latest fundraising raffle.

Buy your \$3 raffle tickets now through the PayPal link on <www.gpacentraltexas.org>.

The Lenox sculpture is currently sold out and will not be available again until June 2005.

The raffle ends May 15, so get your tickets now for a chance to win this beautiful sculpture.



Next membership meeting, Monday, May 2

Please join us for the GPA-CT monthly membership meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, May 2 in the Davenport Building at Town Lake Animal Center.

Board meetings now held third Tuesday of month

GPA-CT Board of Directors meetings have been changed to the third Tuesday of every month.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 17, at Mangia Pizza, 8012 Mesa Dr., Austin.

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

Because of printing deadlines and the time involved in getting the newsletter to you, the notices of available dogs may not be up-to-date. New dogs come in with almost no advance notice, and dogs may be adopted quickly as well. The GPA-CT Web site is apt to be more current than is the newsletter, but even that has a time lag involved. If you're interested in adopting, please don't think that these are the only available greyhounds. Email or call Placement Coordinator Sally McIntosh to find out specifics. Remember there is always a generous supply of beautiful, loving greyhounds who are looking for homes and we want to help you make that connection.

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.

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.

BRIDGET

F/F/3.5y/NCF/SDF

Bridget is an absolutely stunning greyhound. This angel would be the perfect addition to any home. She is perfectly house trained and quite the lady. She loves people and is a wonderful, mellow companion with incredible manners and just a touch of playfulness. She loves stuffies and carries them all around the house. So this little lady has the entire package — gorgeous and an incredible personality to go along.

CHIP

WHT,FW/M/3y

I have the coat and disposition of a lab, but the sleekness and speed of a greyhound. Helping around the house is my middle name. I'm always there to lend a paw whether needed or not — cooking, cleaning, or getting ready for work. I don't know any strangers. I am very loving and affectionate. I love to play tag with the next door neighbor's border collie. So, why don't you come and see me some time.

EVANDER

BLK/M/2.5y/PCF

Despite his scars, he's very sweet and personable. Evander is currently fostered with cats, two large dogs and one small dog and gets along well with all of them. He absolutely loves to chase squeak toys and tennis balls; his foster family has to be very careful and not let him tear up the squeak toys. Although calm and quiet indoors, at times Evander still acts like a puppy. He has a particular affection for socks left on the floor. He follows his foster mom everywhere and is very curious about everything — what's in the refrigerator, in drawers, in closets. We've enjoyed watching him "discover" the house.

MAISY

WHT,BLK/F/4y/NDF/NCF

Maisy has the cutest curly tail you ever did see! She has just arrived in foster care, but she seems to be a real sweetheart. No small animals, please.

MICHELE

BLK,WHT/F/8y

This laid-back greyhound is very loving and affectionate. Michele enjoys playing with toys, but is a true couch potato at heart. She has been letting the other greys in her foster home dictate her "place." This includes yielding her food bowl if there's the slightest pressure. Michele has not yet been cat tested.

NIKKI

W,BDL/F/4y/NCF/NDF

Nikki is at the top of the scale for being loving and affectionate and funny. She has spunk, is a bit of a scamp, and loves to play. She fits in well with other (male) greyhounds and shows some definite alpha female characteristics. Most of the time she is very well house-trained, but every so often she seems to feel the need to make a "statement."

SUNDANCE

WHT,BDL/M/3y

Sundance is a happy boy looking for a home to call his own. He is very playful and likes to go for walks. Sundance is very affectionate and snuggles with his foster parents. He likes neck and ear scratches and wags his tail a lot!

WACO

R,FW/M/2y/NCF/NDF

Waco loves to play with people and other greyhounds. He loves to play ball, take walks and go to playgroup. He is well behaved in the house and knows what outside is for. Waco will lay at your feet while you work at your desk and look up at you with adoring eyes. If you want a younger man that loves to play, gives fabulous greyhound kisses and is a good companion, Waco is your man...er...dog.

Greyhounds and kids

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between the ages of six and nine, or children with special needs, all of whom are the most likely victims of dog bites. At the very least, be sure the racer you're considering isn't afraid of your children when they're first introduced.

If you have children, I recommend that you work only with a group or kennel that can test the racer with children beforehand. You can also try to find a racer who has been raised with children. Many trainers have young children who frequently accompany them to work at the kennel or track. The racers from these environments are usually quite accustomed to children.

Few greyhounds are aggressive to people. The chances that an aggressive greyhound will be placed for adoption are slim, but mistakes do happen. If the racer is being placed in a home for the second time, because his first placement didn't work out, find out why it didn't work. If there is an obvious problem, you want to know about it before you decide to adopt him.

KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE BIG DAY

Take special care when introducing your retired racer to your young children. Any strange dog should be introduced to children with a muzzle in place. But warn your child not to hug her new pal — those muzzles will hurt like heck if he gets excited when he greets her and accidentally hits her in the face with it.

HELPING YOUR RETIRED RACER ADJUST TO HIS NEW FAMILY

Many racers are returned because of conflicts with children or resident pets. These conflicts have nothing to do with the character of greyhounds specifically. The statistic is true of adult adoptions of any breed. Generally, the conflicts occur when parents expect dogs and children to be something they're not.

Whether you're blending dogs and kids or dogs and small animals or all three, two simple rules will keep you out of trouble:

- Supervise all interactions, and separate your child or the smaller animals from your hound when you can't supervise.
- Whenever the child or small animal is in the room or in sight, be sure your retired racer's experience is a good one, full of rewards.

Check out the following sections for more tips on helping these relationships go smoothly.

A child's best friend

From short stories to novels, from TV series to movies, from Lassie to Old Yeller, the theme of a boy and his dog has been a popular thread in all forms of fiction. Somehow, children and dogs just go together. What could be more natural, right?

Dogs do make great playmates for children. And they have done heroic things to save the lives of their young companions. But just the same, dog bites are the fourth leading cause of death among children, and 70 percent of those fatalities occur in children younger than ten. (Biting a child is also the leading cause of death for dogs because dogs who bite children are usually put to death.)

Most greyhounds like or are at least very tolerant of children. But liking the kid down the block isn't the same as living with one. Greyhounds usually aren't a

pet-me-hug-me-play-with-me kind of dog. And kids spend a lot of their time petting, hugging, romping, running, squealing, jerking, and falling over. So the match isn't necessarily one made in heaven.

If you have dogs and young children, adopt this as your mantra: *I will never leave my dog and my child alone.* Never. Use crates, baby gates, or whatever it takes to keep your dog and child far enough apart that they can't touch each other when you're not supervising or when your racer is more than an arm's length away from you. Take your child or your hound into the bathroom with you, if necessary. Just never leave them alone together.

Any dog who is going to live with children must be reliable. If you say "sit," the dog should sit instantly, regardless of what is happening around him. Not sometimes. Not usually. Always. Your hound needs to be trained to respond reliably.

Teach your retired racer to accept child-like handling. Gradually get him accustomed to hugs, light grabs, and sudden movements. Add squeals, shrieks, and child-like yells. Start slowly and gently, and reward positive responses. Don't move ahead until your retired racer is comfortable and clearly ready to enjoy being in a home with children.

Every parent who wants to include a dog in the family should read *Childproofing Your Dog* by Brian Kilcommons and Sarah Wilson (published by Warner Books). In fact, you should read it twice.

Teach your child how to interact with her new pal. Don't let your child hug her hound until you have taught your dog to accept and enjoy this. Use a muzzle until you are sure it's safe.

Even when you're comfortable that your retired racer and your child are comfortable with one another, your work is still not done. Keep in mind the following tips for daily living with children and pets:

- Although you should teach your hound to accept humans of all sizes near his dish or food, you should also teach your child to never approach any dog while he's eating.
- Children should never be allowed to hurt their furry pals. If you won't let your three-year-old hit or pinch your infant, why would you allow her to do it to your greyhound?
- Give your hound a crate, a room, or another safe haven to which he can retreat when he is feeling overwhelmed and teach your children that when he goes to his safe haven, they are not allowed to bother him
- Instruct your children to never pet a sleeping greyhound.
- Be sure your children's friends or any other children visiting your home also know and understand these rules.
- Take the time to teach your racer basic house manners and to properly socialize him to the world he lives in. Give him the skills he needs to be your child's best friend, and he will be.

Life with dogs and children may not always be as idyllic as it is in the movies, but common sense, solid training, and close supervision will make it a great experience for the whole family.

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

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

Greyhounds and kids

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TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND YOUR NEW DOG

If you have children, or if children are frequent visitors in your home, you have a responsibility to keep them safe. Most children have never been taught to interact properly with a dog. They haven't learned how to greet a dog or how to play with a dog properly. The time you spend on this before your retired racer arrives is critical to the well-being of your children and your new dog. Plan to separate the children from the dog when you can't supervise all their interactions.

DON'T PATRONIZE ME...

Many adults teach their children to pat a dog on his head. But most dogs really hate being patted on the head. Have someone pat you on the head for several seconds. It's really annoying, isn't it?

...

BABIES & DOGS CLASS

Lee Mannix Center for Canine Behavior
512/371-DOGS
lmccb@lmccb.com

This semi-private class is designed for expecting parents, new parents, or anyone who has kids and wants to know more about dogs and how they view children.

First and foremost, you will learn how to introduce your dog to your new baby and your baby to your dog. Then we will focus on socialization, sharing, value systems, and rewards in order to reshape and reestablish your pack with the baby as the newest member. You will also learn about the different ways a dog sees a child (from infancy up to teenage years) and how this explains behavior issues that may arise.

This is a single-session class designed for the humans in the family. (Your dog should stay at home.) Please call the Lee Mannix Center for Canine Behavior for class dates and to register.



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Adoptions

DATE	FOSTER NAME (CALL NAME) [NEW NAME]	ADOPTED BY
March 22	Azeri	Steve and Tonna Marcyes, and pups Maggie and Miller
March 23	Tigger	Lonnie Lepp and Jenny and Jacob Bryan, and numerous cats
March 31	Holly (Folly)	Wayne and Barbara Clark, and greyhounds Simon, Annie, and Lady
April 16	Lola	Ron Gutowitz



In Memoriam

Leda (March 30) — beloved greyhound of Ted Zalecki
 Jacinto (April 7) — beloved greyhound of Mike and Jill Klucher
 Corky (April 11) — beloved greyhound of Bobbie and Steve Wier
 Asti (April 11) — beloved greyhound of Bobbie and Steve Wier
 Amber — beloved greyhound of Keith Denison

St. Guinefort and the cult of the greyhound

St. Guinefort was a greyhound who lived in mid-13th century France. Dogs in feudal (as in Celtic) times were often highly prized — especially hunting dogs. They were also a source of warmth on the baronial bed during cold nights in unheated, cavernous and draughty stone castles.

Guinefort, a trusted family member, was left by a French duke to guard his young child. When the father returned he saw blood covering the room and surrounding the infant's crib. Guinefort sat next to the crib, with blood around his mouth. Immediately the duke took his bow and shot the dog in the heart.

As Guinefort made his last dying cry, the infant also cried out. Approaching the crib, the duke saw that his child was unharmed. Below the crib was the body of a poisonous snake who had been creeping up on the infant. Guinefort had saved the child's life. In his grief, the duke committed the dog's body to a well and (in the ancient Celtic tradition) planted a grove of trees around it to honor the brave greyhound.

Guinefort was made a national martyr in France and a saint. The well in which St. Guinefort was buried was thought to hold healing powers for sick infants. The feast day of St. Guinefort was celebrated on August 22.

Over several centuries, the legend of Guinefort gave rise to a cult. The Catholic Church was not amused and viewed the cult as a sacrilege. Despite the best efforts of the Inquisition to eradicate the cult of St. Guinefort, people continued to visit the grove up to 1940, praying for the protection of their children. Ruins of a chapel dedicated to St Guinefort survive at Trévron in Brittany (Côtes d'Armor). In 1987, a movie was even made about the dog and his cult (*The Sorceress*, France 1988).

Greyt Donations

Simply stated, without your generous donations, GPA-Central Texas wouldn't exist. (Donations listed here are since publication date of last newsletter issue. While intended to be a comprehensive list, please forgive us if we overlook any contributions. It is by no means intentional.)

Keith Denison, in memory of Amber
 Michael & Jill Klucher, in memory of Jacinto
 Kris & Donna Seago, in memory of Corky Wier
 Kris & Donna Seago, in memory of Asti Wier
 Jon & Vicky Stephens, for many generous donations

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, and other GPA-CT merchandise.

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.

UPCOMING GPA-CT EVENTS

Saturday,
 May 14, 2005 (11am-7pm)
 Woofstock (presented by Groovy Dog Bakery), Pok-E-Jo's, 5th St., Austin
 <<http://groovydogbakery.com/woofstock.html>>

Sunday,
 May 15, 2005 (2-4pm)
 Meet & Greet at Amy's Ice Cream, 6th & Lamar

Saturday,
 May 21, 2005 (10:30am-3:30pm)
 17th Annual Blanco Classic Car Show, Blanco State Park, Blanco

Saturday,
 June 4, 2005 (11am-4pm)
 Tomlinson's adoption fair, 3300 Bee Cave Rd., Westlake

September 12-18, 2005
 Greyhound Planet 2005 Celebration in conjunction with PETCO stores nationwide

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
Austin, TX 78766

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.

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.

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.

Breakaway collars available in many colors!

The Keep-Safe Breakaway collars are now available not only in red, blue, green, purple, and black, but also blaze orange. If your dog gets tangled on a bush and loses his collar somewhere in the Back 40, your chances of finding it are greatly increased if it was orange! These collars are available through Sally McIntosh placement@gpacentraltexas.org for \$7.50 each (actual cost of the collar) plus postage if you'd like it mailed to you.

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.

Volunteers needed for upcoming GPA-CT events

GPA-CT needs members and their greyhounds to volunteer for upcoming events. If you can help out at any of these events, please email gpa-ct@gpacentraltexas.org:

- Saturday, May 14, 11am-7pm, Woofstock (Pok-E-Jo's, 5th St.)
- Sunday, May 15, 2-4 p.m., special Meet & Greet and Ice Cream Social at Amy's Ice Creams (6th & Lamar)
- Saturday, June 4, 11am-4pm, Tomlinson's adoption fair, Westlake (3300 Bee Cave Rd.)

Last chance to buy 2005 Celebrating Greyhounds calendars

A limited number of both the wall and desk versions of the 2005 Celebrating Greyhounds calendars, featuring fabulous greyhound photographs, are available at Meet & Greets at half price — \$6 for the wall calendar and \$7.50 for the desk calendar. Act fast so you don't miss out!

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GPA-CT Events Calendar: May 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Meet & Greet, Petco-Round Rock	2 Monthly membership meeting, 7pm, Town Lake Animal Center	3	4	5	6	7 Meet & Greet, Petco-Central (Hancock Center)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Meet & Greet, Tomlinson's-Westlake/Woofstock, 11am-7pm, Pok-E-Jo's, 5th St.
15 Meet & Greet, Petco-Lakeline/Meet & Greet, 2-4pm, Amy's Ice Cream, 6th & Lamar	16	17 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, Mangia Pizza (8012 Mesa Dr.)	18	19	20	21 Meet & Greet, Petco-South (Brodie Lane)/Meet & Greet, Petco-Temple/Blanco Classic Car Show, Blanco SP
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Meet & Greet, Petco-North (Arboretum)
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

All Petco Meet & Greets are from noon-3pm, except the South (Brodie Lane) Meet & Greet which is held from 11am-2pm.

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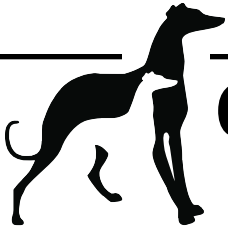




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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **SPECIAL ISSUE:** Greyhounds and children
- **FUND-RAISING RAFFLE:** Lenox "Jeweled Devotion" greyhound sculpture
- **EVENTS:** Something for everyone! Check out the May calendar and the Upcoming Events list



Greyhound Pets of America-Central Texas

Mail your donations to P.O. Box 10069, Austin TX 78766

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Office phone _____ Cell phone _____

Name(s) of greyhound(s) _____

Email address _____

Please add me to the GPA-CT email announcement list.

Donation amount \$ _____

- Membership (\$25 yearly)
- Donation to GPA-CT general operating fund
- Donation to Permanent Emergency Medical Fund

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