

October is "Adopt a Special Needs Hound" month

## The long road home

**Special needs hounds wait for forever families to love them—in spite of everything**

*Introduction by GPA-CT Board Member Pam Cook; Stories by adopters of special needs hounds*

What makes a greyhound special? Everyone has an answer for that — we're all pretty well convinced that our dog is unlike any other. But what makes us classify a particular hound a "special needs" dog? At GPA-CT, special needs include challenges related to health, temperament, and age. A nine-year-old greyhound is a senior who may soon face medical issues. A dog with such severe separation anxiety that she can't be left alone poses serious placement difficulties. A hound may have a seizure disorder, chronic renal failure, or an old racing injury that limits his activity. At any time, GPA-CT has at least a couple of special cases. Often, we have more than a few.

GPA-CT has designated October "Adopt a Special Needs Hound" month, and we want to place as many of our very special hounds as there are perfect homes for them. Check our Web site for pictures and stories about all our wonderful adoptables, and pay special attention to those marked "special." Since these dogs may require extra veterinary attention, training, medication, or because the rewards of companionship may be slow to come, we reduce our adoption fee on both special needs and senior hounds. We make recommendations for care, activities, food, toys, and professional help. The Placement Team and the foster parents work hard to make the transition to adoption smooth — and permanent.

Would anyone in his or her right mind adopt a special needs dog? Um, yeah. They would. Most people, as trainer and author Lee Livingood says, want a pet, not a project. But every so

often some very special folks come along — and, well, suffice it to say that some of us at GPA-CT just can't wait for human cloning to be perfected.

This month, you'll meet four special needs greyhounds, along with the humans who thank their lucky stars these dogs came into their lives. There are challenges, of course. But if you're prepared for them — and sometimes even if you're not! — the rewards can't be measured. Get ready to hear from three smitten, dedicated, model guardians of special needs greyhounds.

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Sandy  
*by Sally McIntosh, GPA-CT Placement Coordinator and adopter of Sandy (and several other special needs hounds)*

Sandy is a somewhat paranoid saluki/greyhound cross with a never-stop-wagging tail. He was surrendered to our group by a man who had adopted him in west Texas nine years earlier. Sandy was a seriously abused puppy at that

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Sandy

### Upcoming board meetings

GPA-CT Board of Directors meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month.

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

### We love free publicity!

A greyt big thanks to Austin sportscaster and GPA-Central Texas member Dave Cody for promoting greyhounds and GPA-CT Sept. 1 on Mix 94.7 FM when he should have been talking about football! Thanks, Dave!

# How many hounds can you help?

by Tim Define, GPA-CT President

If you're reading this right now, odds are you currently have at least one long-legged critter on a nearby couch or fluffy bed. Have you ever thought about how your wonderful pet — or pets ;-) — made the journey from the farm to your home?

It's very likely that your greyhound spent some time in a foster home, learning what it's like to live indoors and all of the wonderful things that entails. A foster family looked after your beloved friends and taught them to go potty outside, to walk on a leash and how to behave in various situations. The foster family loved your greyhound as if he or she was their own, and almost certainly shed some tears when you adopted your new companion. (I know, I've been there many times.)

Now, think for a moment what might have happened if there was no family to foster your greyhound. What about all of the love and happiness that you might have missed because there was no one willing to open their home and their heart to help them on their way?

Fostering greyhounds has been the most rewarding experience that I'll ever have. While it's difficult to give them up, there isn't a better feeling in the world than seeing how much joy my foster dog brings to their new family, and knowing that I was an integral part in forming that relationship. I can't tell you how thankful I am that Bali, Zach, Fizzy and Freckles were taken in by their former foster parents who loved them and taught them all those wonderful things and then sent them on their way to their forever home.

GPA-Central Texas is always looking for foster families to help transform beautiful racing machines into loving family pets. If you're willing to open your heart and home to a greyhound in need, or have any questions about our foster program please send an e-mail to <president@gpa-centraltexas.org>.

Be safe, and hug your hounds!

Tim

# Special needs hounds *continued from page 1*

time, covered with cigarette burns and emotional scars. His adopter worked patiently with him, earning his trust. Then, time passed, life happened, and the man could no longer care for Sandy. Sandy exhibited severe separation anxiety, with very bad bathroom habits every time the man left his home. His guardian tried everything he knew to try, and then called us. We worked closely with him and his vet, in hopes of making it possible for Sandy to stay in his home. But things only got worse.

So at age 11, described by the vet as "anorexic" and on tricyclic anti-depressants, Sandy came to GPA-Central Texas. He had, despite the best efforts of his guardian, chronic dental disease. He was also the sweetest, most soulful looking dog I'd ever seen. It broke my heart to think that he had to leave the only person who had ever loved him. He entered my home as a foster, and I knew within minutes that he wasn't going anywhere else. Because of his age and the amount of money I'd already spent on his care, the board voted that there be no adoption fee.

Sandy's teeth have been a non-stop challenge. I've tried everything — special dental food, daily brushing, CET chews and rinse, periodic rounds of antibiotics. You name it, we've tried it, and the poor guy still has gums that bleed several times a week. There's also the fact that he terrorizes the teenaged Pharaoh hound in the household!

Sandy is terrified of men — all men, including my two sons. He has warmed up a little to the older son because he's seen him frequently. But the younger son is still The Bogey-man in Sandy's eyes. Recently on a 100+ degree day I came home to find Sandy outside in the wading pool and John in the house with the other dogs. I said, "How cute! It's the first time I've seen Sandy in the wading pool!" John replied, "He's been outside for the past two hours and would not come in with me here. I guess he felt like cooling off in the pool was the best option open to him!"

Celebrating Sandy's 12th birthday on April 1, 2006, was a special pleasure. Knowing that this sweet old guy has a place to be comfortable and cared for until his last days is so rewarding.

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An open letter to my hound

by Cathy Ransom, adopter of Isobel

My darling Izzy —

Can you believe it's been a year? I am so proud that words like "fraidy dog," "DAP," and "Where is she hiding?" have little or no meaning in our lives anymore. How much more fun it is now that we say "Isobel, I know you're excited, but please don't chew on the seatbelt on the way to the park," "Isobel, please don't pull the eyes off the toys that don't belong to you," and "Isobel, Mommy loves to play and get kisses, but midnight is time for sleeping!"

Put on your good manners, Ms. Queen of Everything, and send big thank you sugars to Auntie Pam, Sally, and Barbara (the doggie shrink) for their seemingly endless patience to get you out of the corner of the living room. It took daily notes to the dogsitter, listing the words of the week (settle, hurry-up outside, on the grass) for constant reinforcement, to put you at ease taking walks to do your business.

Not only do you look so much like my Miss Mahattan [Cathy's first greyhound, Hattie], but your unbelievable shyness reminded me in so many ways of when I first met her. I watched her become a circus clown when no one else was around, and I knew you had it in you, too. Dancing, playing, and butt-nipping all being a part of your M.O. now just proves that I was right! Your singular trust in me and willingness to extend trust where I do helps me to be brave when life is scary.

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# Special needs hounds *continued from page 2*

Sometimes (not so much anymore), you frustrate me. Then I stop to think about fear and just how paralyzing it can be, and I remember how much courage it takes just to walk out the door some days. I know what you mean...

There are several things, seemingly unique to you, that always make me glad you came to live at our house: your goofy greyhound grin and bouncy prance when we go for a walk, 'helping' me do yoga, asking (demanding!) your nite-nite biscuit — a special thanks to Auntie Pam for the habit ;-)- and loving outings so much that you refuse to get out of the car, preferring to sit in the garage hoping I'll come back so we can go again.

Pam and Sally worried about you. They knew you would be a drama queen and need a special place to grow. If people hadn't listened to Mommy cry on the phone out of sheer frustration and then patiently talked us through some of those rough spots, I don't know where we'd be today. Home delivery, stitch removal, and TLC all made your new life possible, and oh, how glad we are!

The most shocking thing you've done so far is to become another pup altogether at Speed Alley. I thought you might pull my arm out of the socket that day from sheer excitement and focus. Pummeling the cameraman was just so outrageous, I even swore it couldn't possibly be my dog. The most lovely thing about you is that just when I start to forget, you remind that life only counts if you go face-first into the things you love most: plopping belly-down in the wading pool, hiking in the creek, and learning to swim all put points in your "Life with Gusto" column!

Astro (the Super-Maltese) and I are so glad you're here, and we love you from the very bottom of our hearts.

— Mommy

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Champ and Honeycomb  
*by Ryan Barden, GPA-CT Board Member and adopter, with wife Rachael, of Champ and Honeycomb*

[Editor's note: Ryan and Rachael applied to adopt one greyhound from GPA-CT, but they went home with two — both dogs with significant challenges. Champ has only one toe on his right rear foot, and he was likely neglected. He had to be taught to get along with other dogs and with people. Honeycomb was the classic example of a spook. Fostered together, the dogs had bonded. Sally McIntosh suggested that Ryan and Rachael's home might be the perfect place for Champ and Honeycomb. They visited the dogs at the Define's house but weren't sure they could handle two dogs. Honeycomb was beautiful, but

she couldn't muster the nerve to lick cheese off Rachael's finger. While they were trying to get Honeycomb to relax, Ryan sat on the floor leaning against the sofa. Champ jumped up on the sofa and placed a toy on Ryan's shoulder. It was all over from there. GPA-CT, says Ryan, "provided the Defines, which is the best support anyone could ever ask for. Our biggest challenge was making Honeycomb comfortable the first month, but it's been nothing but joy since then."]

Many of you know my boy, Champ. To GPA-CT, he was Champ II, but to me, he's the most special dog in the world.

Life is tenuous for a young greyhound, and Champ's life got off to a tough start. For reasons we will never know for sure, while Champ was still under his mom's care, he lost all but one toe on his right rear foot. It was obvious that he would never race. Thankfully, a young woman asked to keep the young pup, and there is little doubt that she saved his life. In 2004, the same young woman called GPA-CT and asked if they would provide a temporary home for Champ while she was going to school. She had been living in an apartment for a while, and then moved in with her brother, who would not let her keep Champ in the house. Instead, he was tied outside. Her plan was to finish school and get a place where she could keep the dog.

GPA-CT agreed to keep him temporarily. He lived with a couple who had a large number of dogs in their home — both their own and fosters — and Champ didn't fit in very well. He barked constantly and was aggressive with the other dogs. Understandably, this behavior was unacceptable. When the young woman said she wouldn't be able to take him back after all, she asked GPA-CT to find a permanent home for him. His caretakers felt he was totally out of control, and they asked the board for permission to get rid of him.

The board said absolutely not. Dr. Willis at Great Oaks evaluated him and recommended a behaviorist, Lynnne Goodman, to try to correct the problems. Champ was put on Prozac and kept at the behaviorist's home for several months. She felt his foot was painful and so had him on pain meds as well. He experienced consistent discipline, as well as time to grow out of his puppy behaviors, and so learned to "play nice with other dogs." The smaller number of dogs probably had a large influence on his behavior as well. Then Lynnne had to move rather suddenly and GPA-CT was faced with finding a home for him quickly.

Tim and Jennifer Define, who can always be depended on to do what is needed, took him into their home. They observed him and played with

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# Adoptions

DATE	FOSTER NAME (RACING NAME) [NEW NAME]	ADOPTED BY
July 8	Havana (NXS Gold Earring)	Nancy Faubion, greyhounds Lily and Foxy, mixed breed Monty, and multiple cats
August 9	Maury (AR's Mr. Kreuzn)	Audrey and Don Hurley, and greyhound Ruffles
August 12	Shiner	Luanne Fusco
August 13	Dusty [Toby]	Elizabeth Gibson, and greyhounds Ian and Dutch
August 14	Lyle (Flying Hannibal)	Sherman and Kathy Stone and Ashley, greyhounds Lucky and Breezy
August 16	Tom-Tom (Inside Clyde)	Lauren and Curtis Graham
August 25	Joey (Joseph's Dance)	Rachel and James Brush, greyhounds Phoebe and Daphne



## In Memoriam

Holly (June 9) — beloved greyhound of Mike and Ruth Hall  
 CiCi [CiCi's No Mercy] (June 29) — beloved greyhound of Lana and Gary Henley  
 Dax (July 15) — beloved greyhound of Rick and Jeanette Schiffner  
 Argos (July 20) — beloved greyhound of Mike and Holly Waldon  
 Cruiser (July 20) — beloved greyhound of Mike and Holly Waldon

## Greyhounds available for adoption

The most up-to-date listing of greyhounds available for adoption through GPA-CT is on the Web site: [www.gpacentraltexas.org](http://www.gpacentraltexas.org). If you're interested in adopting, please email or call Placement Coordinator Sally Rau McIntosh at (512) 301-8236 or <[placement@gpacentraltexas.org](mailto:placement@gpacentraltexas.org)>.

### JONES

[Brindle, male, 4-ish years old, not cat friendly]  
 Jones is playful and fun-loving.

### KELLY

[Fawn, female, 2 years old, child friendly, not cat or small dog friendly] Kelly is a true princess. It hasn't taken her long to realize that she loves attention and ear rubs.

### LADY ROSE

[Black with white, female] Lady Rose is very shy and doesn't seem to have interacted much with people, but she likes to hang out with other hounds.

### MOROCCO

[Brindle, male, 3-1/2 years old, cat- and small dog friendly] Morocco is an untattooed sweetie with no background information whatsoever. Torn ears tell of a tough past, but he is friendly, gentle, and responsive.

### RUFUS

[Black and white, male, 3+ years old, not cat friendly, special needs] Rufus has played happily with other hounds and non-hounds of both genders when in a fenced yard. Rufus needs a consistent, stable adult home. He is a healthy, strong, attractive boy with a great heart and a winning smile.

### SILKY

[White with black, female, 7 years old, good with kids, not cat safe] Silky is a beautifully marked, large female greyhound who recently retired from a breeding farm. She loves to take walks, is well behaved and gentle.

### WACO

[Red/fawn, male, 2 years old, not cat or small dog friendly] Waco loves to play with people and other greyhounds. He loves to play ball, take walks and go to playgroup.

### WYLIE

[Red brindle, male, small dog friendly, not cat friendly] Wylie is a young, frisky tiger of a boy with excellent manners. He prefers to be anywhere you are and loves attention.

Information coming soon on Doogie; Gimme; Harley; Jack (red fawn, kid-safe male, 5 yrs. old); Langley; Mason; Pearl (Sweetie Pie); Suzi; Toby; and Trinket.

## GPA-CENTRAL TEXAS MEET & GREETs

First Saturdays  
 Town Lake stroll

First Sundays  
 REI\*  
 9901 N. Capital of Texas Hwy.  
 \*suspended until further notice

Second Saturdays  
 Tomlinson's Westlake  
 3300 Bee Cave Rd.

Third Saturdays  
 Petco Austin-South  
 5601 Brodie Lane

Third Saturdays  
 Petco Temple  
 2112 SW H.K. Dodgen Loop, Temple

Fourth Saturdays  
 Petco Austin-North  
 (Arboretum)  
 9828 Great Hills Tr.

Please check <[www.gpacentraltexas.org](http://www.gpacentraltexas.org)> for the most up-to-date information on these and other GPA-CT events.

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# Lyle's great adventure

## or the day I thought it was the 'Big One' (mine!)

by Sherman Stone, GPA-CT member

[Editor's note: Sherman Stone — dad to Lucky, Breezy and, most recently, Lyle — shares his exciting greyhound escapade. Very entertaining and funny — provided it's not your dog!]

Just to set the story correct, it has been over 12 years since my last greyhound was loose. We have had greyhounds in this house and yard every day of the last 15 years, but as I alluded to, the last ones to make their big escape were Samson and Micah many years ago. We were able to round them up fairly well but I was a lot younger then. Don't get me wrong, I am in excellent shape, still move around like a youngster, but at 57 I have to be slower than then.

Over the last few years we have said goodbye to Micah and Sammy when they crossed the bridge, while welcoming Lucky and Breezy to our home. Now these two have proven very predictable and we were quick to discover their neuroses, while understanding mine at the same time. As expected, they rush out the back sliding glass doors (Breezy in front with Lucky voicing discontent under her breath) and go straight to the back fence to hunt (torment) the squirrels (Rocky, Randy and Rhoda) or to sniff at the spot where a rat was once spotted. We never named the rat. Years of this activity lends to our certain behavior.

I work in the yard a lot (compulsion #2) and always lock the gates behind me because reading the greyhound books and newsletters helped me understand that I don't want a loose hound. Just a week ago, we took in Lyle for a sleep-over that we knew would lead to the adoption of our fifth greyhound. Lyle is a youthful nine year old that, when calculated out, should move about as fast as me. Last Saturday in the late afternoon I am working in the yard (see compulsion #2). I headed to the backyard to move the soaker hose to a different route: eight feet inside the gate, flip the switch and I am out. I left the gate open about two feet, knowing full well that no one was in the yard, went to the switch and then with a clatter on the roof — sorry, it was the back door being flung open by Ashley — did come out our herd of three. I took off in a dash for the gate but my new son, Lyle, using Greyhound Radar, took an immediate left while the other two went to the fence (most predictable), but Lyle headed my way (most unpredictable) and beat me to the gate by two strides. I only had six strides total to get to it so he turns out darn fast for nine years old. I shut the

gate, exclaim some choice thoughts and take off after him.

My first coherent thoughts are "Crap! He doesn't even have our tags on because we haven't 'officially' adopted him yet and now I have lost him!" Running with him in a neighborhood he has not even had a walk in yet disturbed me, but he was off and away! Blocks, many blocks later, I finally get my hands on him, slip away and fall to the ground (one of many near catches and falls) and once again say choice thoughts. More blocks slip by, I get a high school guy to help me keep him heading to the home he has no idea the location of, and use my cell phone to call Ashley at home to come and head him off. She had no idea we were gone until the count upon returning to the living room didn't hit three. Plus there was a Dad missing. She arrived without shoes to help me run down a greyhound. :-). The rescue vehicle was a white truck driven by a neighbor on a mission with Ashley in tow as she had recruited Lance. We all joined in (I was moving quite slow at that point), cornered the jailbird and quelled my impending bad moment.

I found out that although we may have many years experience and consider ourselves "Greyhound People," there is always something to learn or watch for. Running for miles, being worried sick about my new son and thinking the trust of GPA-CT was misguided was not what I wanted to be doing on a late Saturday afternoon. Hug your hounds, don't trust the obvious and bet on the one racing me.



*Yep, this is the same dog that led the Stones on a wild hound chase through their neighborhood. Resting up, apparently...*

# Who says greyhounds can't do agility?

by Sev Champeny, GPA-CT member

As a greyhound mom, I am always looking for new things to do with my dogs, but agility? That's a sport for collies, right? Well, that's not necessarily true...and Kiani is proving it!

Here is how it all started: When we adopted Kiani about three years ago, I knew right away she was not your "typical" greyhound: She fetches balls, catches Frisbees, obeys commands, and loves to do tricks (and she barks a lot too for a greyhound!). Anyway, one day I was watching an agility show on the Animal Planet channel, and a thought came to me: Would Kiani like to try that? So I decided to look into it. I read a few books on agility, which pretty much all said that greyhounds (along with a few other breeds) were not the best suited for the sport. OK. Fine. We're always up for a challenge.

A few weeks later, after some more research, Kiani was enrolled in Introduction to Agility at the Travis Agility Group (TAG) facilities. On the first day of class, I was surprised to see that there were dogs of all breeds and sizes there, from dachshunds to dobermans, not just the typical collies and herding dogs you would expect, and that most had no previous training of any kind. The TAG introductory class was a great way to begin, because it is a mix of obedience, clicker training, and very basic agility. Also, as an over-protective mom, I felt very safe taking Kiani there. The fields are completely fenced in, all the dogs have to be on leash at first, unless they are really obedient, and each handler is responsible to make sure his/her dog behaves properly, etc. And TAG only uses positive reinforcement.

At first, Kiani was a little slower (not in speed obviously!) than some of the other dogs, but she really seemed to enjoy going to class, and I could tell she was taking it seriously and really trying her best. She made a lot of progress during the six weeks of class, and on the day of graduation from Introduction to Agility, she surprised everyone by winning the target competition: A "target" (a plastic Frisbee) is placed on the ground and when the dog hears "Target," he/she is supposed to go straight to it, touch it with his/her nose, and then come back to you. The target gets moved further and further away with every round, and the winner is the dog with the best distance. I was so proud of my little Kiani when she was the last dog standing. (OK, so being a sighthound and the tallest in her class, she sort of had an advantage!)

Kiani has done great since and she has completed Beginning Agility I and Beginning Agility II. She has by now mastered pretty much all the obstacles on the course, some with more ease than others. For example, she would not set foot



in the tunnel for weeks but never had a problem running the skinny five-foot-tall dog walk or climbing up and down the A-frame at full speed! Agility has also been a great way to spend quality time with Kiani and to reinforce our bond. It has been very good for Kiani in terms of obedience, too. At her current level, most of the work is now done off leash, and she no longer takes off and runs all over the field the minute I take off her leash! And it has been good exercise for me too, as I have to run a lot more to keep up with Kiani than say, the dachshund handler! But most important of all, Kiani loves agility, and I love doing it with her!

Kiani will be starting Intermediate Agility next week and we're hoping to participate in our first novice competition sometime in the near future.

So, who says greyhounds can't do agility?

*If you are interested in agility and would like more information on TAG, you can visit their Web site at [www.austintag.org](http://www.austintag.org). TAG is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote the sport of agility. Their classes are held at the Williamson County Humane Society in Leander. You can also email Sev Champeny at [schampeny@earthlink.net](mailto:schampeny@earthlink.net).*

***Kiani emerges from the "originally oh-so-scary" tunnel.***

# Special needs hounds

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him and loved him and took him off the medications. It was never easy, because Champ is stubborn, smart, and independent, but they convinced him that if he played by the rules, everyone would be happier. In less than a year, they had facilitated Champ's transformation from a reputed "devil dog" to a happy, playful, and loving little guy.

During the year that he spent looking for his forever home, he met a beautiful little girl who was terrified of the world. Honeycomb became the yin to Champ's yang. She was shy and quiet, while he was rambunctious and outgoing, and he (along with Tim and Jen, of course) gave her the courage to come out of her corner. The two of them became inseparable best buddies. He made her feel safe, and she gave him unending love and admiration. It became obvious that these two could never be separated. With so many amazing greyhounds looking for homes, who would ever want to adopt a dog with a pronounced limp and a checkered past, along with a shaking leaf who would run and hide when any potential adopters walked in?

Champ and Honeycomb loved the Defines, and Tim and Jen loved them right back. They would have been happy to keep Champ and Honeycomb for the rest of their lives, but they knew that they could only foster so many dogs, and it was time for some other greyhounds to have a chance. Champ knew he would have to really impress the next people who came to meet the Define hounds.

I have wanted a greyhound since I was a teenager. I had a friend in high school who raised them, and my high school graduation party was held at the Woodlands in Kansas City. I even got to have my picture taken with one of the winning dogs down on the track. As an avid sports fan, I had such admiration for the breed, but knowing that these speed machines were also capable of astonishing love and loyalty, I knew that as soon as I had a yard, I would have a greyhound.

The same week that Rachael and I moved to our new house with the six-foot fence, we started contacting local rescue groups. Sally McIntosh came to our house, interviewed us, and offered us the infamous "buy one, get one free" deal that would make our family complete. She suggested that we meet the Defines and their fosters. There was no pressure to adopt Champ and Honeycomb. She told us that it would take time for Honeycomb to even want to be in the same room with us, but that if we persevered, we would be rewarded. She was so right!

Still, we had never even discussed adopting two dogs. Our house was brand new to us. Would two dogs destroy it? Were we ready for that? When we entered the Define's house, it was like a party. There were six happy dogs there, and five of them were anxious to make new friends. The sixth was a beautiful little fawn with big Bambi eyes who was looking desperately for an escape route. Tim and Jen calmed her down enough to consider taking some cheese off of Rachael's finger. She ultimately decided against it, but while I was sitting on the floor next to the sofa watching the proceedings, Champ jumped up and put his favorite toy on my shoulder. There was no need to discuss it further. Champ was our dog, and he wasn't going anywhere without his pal.

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**Joey, one of GPA-CT's long-term fosters, has found a happy home with James and Rachel Brush and their scaredy-girls Daphne and Phoebe. Rachel contends that spooks and easily frightened dogs are actually a well-kept secret source of satisfaction. Few adopters realize how rewarding it can be to take on a "spook" or an easily frightened dog. Both Daphne and Phoebe have come light years since they came to live at the Brush home. When Joey arrived, "Our expectations were already minimal, and the bar was set really low," says Rachel. Joey didn't have to do much to garner praise, treats, and kisses. Now, he frolics with his new sisters, insists on nightly walks, and bestows multiple daily snuggles. Way to go, Joey!**



**Special needs hounds** *continued from page 8*

Since the first time he walked into our house, Champ has been home. The first few weeks were tough for Honeycomb, but when she was scared by a new noise or a new person, Champ would play with her to let her know that it was alright. Champ was great from the start, but seeing Honeycomb slowly come around has been so rewarding. She is such a happy girl now, and her confidence grows every day. The first time I saw her big toothy smile, my heart melted. Now she smiles when we get home from work, and she smiles when she's getting her belly rubbed, and she smiles when we open the treat cabinet. We're so proud of the confident girl that she's become.

I'm on the board of directors of GPA-CT now, and Rachael contributes as well. We are on our second foster, and we want to do whatever we can to share the joy of greyhounds with the rest of the world. When we first called Sally, we thought we were going to get a pet. Instead, Champ and Honeycomb have changed our lives. For the rest of our lives, we will have greyhounds, and we will work to find homes for greyhounds. Rachael and I gave a home to two dogs, and Champ and Honeycomb have inspired us to save as many as we can, for as long as we can.



*Suzi (top) and Toby are special needs hounds who were returned to GPA-CT due to their guardian's illness. Kept together in foster care, they are shy dogs who will need lots of patience and understanding and are strongly bonded.*

## **GPA-CT's best Home & Garden Show yet!**

*by Lana Henley, GPA-CT Executive Secretary*

GPA-CT was again among the most popular booths at the Austin Fall Home & Garden Show held Aug. 18-20 at the Austin Convention Center. Children and adults packed the aisles to pet the greyhounds, to ask questions and to cram money into the new donation coats the dogs wore. Bobbie Wier made the most stunning coats for the dogs to wear with the words "Retired Racer" and "Donations" embroidered on them, and they were very effective. Donations amounted to \$600.



A special "thank you" goes to Bob Trapp who is faithful every year to help set up and break down the exhibit. Volunteers included Tim and Jennifer Define, Bobbie Wier, Barbara Clark, Kris and Donna Seago, Ryan and Rachael Barden, Angie Smith, Julie Babler, Elizabeth Gibson, Harvey Rosenblum, James and Kat Smith, James and Rachel Brush, Chris and Sara Young, Emily Hutson and Tami Wooliver, Melissa and Alex Swain, and Gary Henley. Of course, our greys were the real stars of the show, as always, and our volunteers made it all possible.

[Editor's note: GPA-CT's success at the Home & Garden shows would not be possible without the hard work and selfless efforts of Executive Secretary Lana Henley.]

**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  
gpact-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.

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reject publication of any  
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position of GPA-CT.

## GPA-CT email list

GPA-CT relies heavily on the Yahoo! email list to inform our members of current events and last-minute opportunities. Please take a minute to join this informative list. Visit the Web site at [www.gpacentraltexas.org](http://www.gpacentraltexas.org) and follow the instructions to join. It's a grey way to stay informed.

## GPA-CT membership dates

Beginning in 2006, GPA-CT adopted a uniform date for annual memberships. By vote of the board, member dues of \$25/household are now payable on February 14 of each year. What a grey way to celebrate Valentine's Day and your love for the hounds! This change enormously simplifies our group's recordkeeping and standardizes member notification to once a year. If your dues don't seem important, consider this: if our roughly 300 past and present members all paid this relatively small amount, we could put \$7,500 to work caring for and placing dozens of dogs. Has it been a while since you paid your fully tax deductible dues? Then clip the donation form on the outside of this issue of Paws & Reflect and bring your membership up to date! Thanks very much for your support.

## Slurp soup and raise money for greyhounds at the same time!

A unique Austin business, the Soup Peddler, will donate to GPA-CT 5% of every purchase we make! Several GPA-CT members are already regular "soupies." We've been enjoying not just soup but also salads, main dishes, vegetables, and desserts that are delivered to our front porches once a week. With vegetarian dishes, choices for carnivores, and a wealth of kid-friendly selections, it's hard to choose without maxing out the credit card. To learn more and to place a secure order, please go to the Soup Peddler's special GPA-CT Web site, <<http://www.souppeddler.com/?Click=7017>>.

## Is GPA-CT mentioned in your will?

You may not think you have enough of an estate to worry about having a will, but if you own a house, you need a will giving directions to those left behind as to how you'd like your property divided.

Please don't forget GPA-CT when you make your will or the next time you update your will (which should be done periodically — things change!). Your gift of \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 or more would make a huge difference to the chapter as we try to meet our mission of finding responsible loving homes for greyhounds which

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fail to qualify for the racetrack or no longer qualify for the racetrack, to acquaint the public with the desirability of greyhounds as pets, and to inform the public of the availability of these dogs for adoption.

What greater gift than to continue making an impact for the good after you're no longer alive to do so? The greyhounds we will meet and endeavor to help in the future will thank you.

## GPA-CT members help return Juarez greyhounds to U.S.

On May 19, Bobbie Wier and Jennifer Define of GPA-Central Texas numbered among the many volunteers who helped to transport 126 greyhounds from a racetrack in Juarez, Mexico, to a number of greyhound adoption groups actively working to find homes for these hounds.

Bobbie and Jennifer transported five greyhounds from Juarez to Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption in San Antonio. GPA-CT was not able to accept any of the Juarez greyhounds because of a lack of available foster homes.

## Reminder: Collar safety

Please keep your greyhounds safe from collar strangulation accidents by using a breakaway collar at all times. Martingale collars should be used only for walking your greyhounds.

Please do not leave martingale collars on your dogs while they are unattended.

Thousands of dogs are injured or strangled by their collars every year. Most accidents occur while two dogs are at play; or when collars become hung on fences or decks, in crates or kennels, on heating/cooling vents, or on branches or shrubs.

On the breakaway collar, make sure your dog's ID tags are attached only to one D-ring. On the martingale collar, the ID tags should be attached to one of the O-rings, not the D-ring.

For more information about collar safety, please visit [www.keepsafecollar.com](http://www.keepsafecollar.com).

# Upcoming GPA-CT special events

For the most up-to-date information on GPA-CT's participation in special events (including directions), visit [www.gpacentraltexas.org](http://www.gpacentraltexas.org). While at the Web site, sign up for the email announcement list to receive the latest GPA-CT news.

## **SPEED ALLEY AT BARKTOBER FEST**

Saturday, Oct. 14  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Old Settler's Park, Round Rock

## **MEET & GREET: RED BARN GARDEN CENTER**

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 14-15  
12881 Pond Springs Rd.,  
Austin

## **CHUY'S CHILDREN GIVING TO CHILDREN PARADE**

Saturday, Nov. 25 • 11 a.m.  
Downtown Austin

## **GEORGETOWN STROLL**

Saturday, Dec. 2

## **HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

Saturday, Dec. 9  
On the Square  
in Dripping Springs

## **HOLIDAY PARTY**

plus quarterly membership  
meeting  
December -- TBA

## **Central Texas SPCA**

### **Barktober Fest**

featuring Speed Alley

**SATURDAY, OCT. 14 • 11 A.M.-2 P.M.**

**OLD SETTLER'S PARK, ROUND ROCK**

Join us for a HOWling good time at the 2006 Barktober Fest and K9 Pledge Walk for Homeless Pets on Saturday, Oct. 14! This dog walk and festival benefits the pets of the Central Texas SPCA. GPA-Central Texas will be there with the ever-popular Speed Alley. There will also be a moon-walk, craft fair, agility demos, education station, pet and human costume contests, food, live music, and vendor booths.

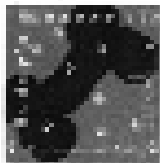
## **Barnes & Noble holiday gift wrap**

**10000 RESEARCH BLVD. IN THE ARBORETUM  
OLD SETTLER'S PARK, ROUND ROCK**

Volunteers will be needed for this year's holiday gift wrap to raise money for the greyhounds. GPA-CT needs to staff a gift wrap table on the following dates and times:

Friday, Nov. 24: noon-7 p.m.  
Saturday, Nov. 25: 2-7 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 14: 3-7 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 15: 3-7 p.m.  
Monday, Dec. 18: 3-7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Dec. 20: 4-7 p.m.

Watch the email announcement list and the Web site for information coming soon on how to volunteer.



**Buddy's Chance, LLC**  
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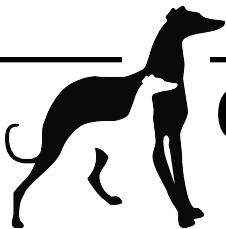
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jerking, choking, or squirting!



**Greyhound Pets of America-Central Texas**  
 P.O. Box 10069  
 Austin, TX 78766  
 512/301-8236 or 512/964-3429

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- October is "Adopt a Special Needs Hound" month
- Greyhounds and agility
- Upcoming fall and holiday events
- ...and much more!



**Greyhound Pets of America-Central Texas**

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 per household; payable Feb. 14)
- Donation to GPA-CT general operating fund
- Donation to The Real Ransom III DVM Emergency Medical Fund

Greyhound Pets of America-Central Texas is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.  
 Donations to GPA-CT are tax-deductible to the full extent allowable by law.