

## The President's Notebook

*Donna Seago, GPA-CT President/Placement Coordinator*

It's hard to think of fall or winter events when we've been setting triple-digit heat records in Central Texas all summer. But there's no time like the present to start planning your end-of-year calendar which should include lots of GPA-Central Texas to do's.

### **To Do #1: Volunteer Your Time**

Fall and winter are the busiest times of year for GPA-Central Texas events, and we need lots of volunteers to make them successful.

#### ***Dogtoberfest at the Domain • Saturday, October 22***

GPA-CT has a booth space at the event and wants you to join us! We'll want lots of you to come out and visit for the day to show Austin just how awesome greyhounds are and what great pets they make!

#### ***Meet & Greets***

Meet & Greets are the bread and butter of our business – finding forever homes for retired racing greyhounds. Most of our adopters first met a greyhound at a Meet & Greet, so although routine to many, Meet & Greets remain one of the most important volunteer opportunities that we have. View the complete Meet & Greet schedule at [gpacentraltexas.org/events/meet.html](http://gpacentraltexas.org/events/meet.html).

#### ***Holiday gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble/Arboretum***

We have a great opportunity for exposure as well as fund raising this holiday season at Barnes & Noble, but we're going to need plenty of volunteers to help out. Look over this list of dates and if you can volunteer for any of them, please email [angie@gpacentraltexas.org](mailto:angie@gpacentraltexas.org).

Friday, Nov. 25 (4–10 p.m.)

Saturday, Dec. 10 (9 a.m.–3 p.m.)

Tuesday, Dec. 13 (10 a.m.–3 p.m.)

Wednesday, Dec. 14 (3–9 p.m.)

Sunday, Dec. 18 (9 a.m.–3 p.m.)

Friday, Dec. 23 (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)

Keep an eye on [gpacentraltexas.org](http://gpacentraltexas.org) for volunteer opportunities year-round.

### **To Do #2: Foster A Greyhound**

Ultimately, the success of the GPA-CT adoption program depends on committed foster families to house greyhounds that arrive on our proverbial doorstep with or without warning. We can only bring in as many greyhounds as we have foster homes to house them. If you've opened your heart and home to one greyhound, could there possibly be room for one more? Could you help shape a dog who has been used for profit and gain into a loving companion for another adopter? Someone did it for your greyhound; could you do it for someone else?

### **To Do #3: Donate Money**

Volunteering and fostering are our two most critical currencies, but cash donations are welcome and necessary. To operate, we must be able to pay for necessary services such as veterinary care and liability insurance.

One of the easiest ways to donate to GPA-CT is through PayPal. To sign up, visit [gpacentraltexas.org/store/new09.html](http://gpacentraltexas.org/store/new09.html) and "subscribe" to a recurring monthly donation, or make a one-time donation in an amount of your choice.

No matter how large or small, GPA-CT truly appreciates every contribution!



**Like Greyhound Pets of America—  
Central Texas at  
[facebook.com/greyhoundpetscentraltexas](http://facebook.com/greyhoundpetscentraltexas)**

## GPA-CT Board of Directors

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(Year) = date term expires

\*appointed by Board of Directors

## Donations

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

### Real Ransom III DVM Emergency Medical Fund contributions:

Mrs. John C. Renshaw, in honor of Harley and Sam Renshaw

### Matching Fund Donations:

Selena Caldera — AARP

Amy Garcia — Dell

Randall's Good Neighbor Program

### PayPal Recurring Donations:

James and Rachel Brush

### In Memory of Eric Wyatt:

Raymond P. Bouloy, DVM

Joan Jordahl

Martha Littlefield, DVM

Ted and Betty Mooney

Robert and Carol Nassif

### General Operating Fund Donations:

Stan and Debbie Adams, in memory of Dash

Len Borowski and Tonia Gaston

Kevin and Terry Conlon

Gary and Chris Miller, in honor of Solitary Diane

Paul and Barbara Mitchell

Mrs. John C. Renshaw, in honor of Harley and Sam Renshaw

Vicky Stephens

- Thanks to all GPA-CT foster families, without whom our work isn't possible.
- Thanks to Buddy's Chance Dog Training and Behavior for consulting services (and good advice over the phone, too!).
- Thanks to everyone who adds something to the donation boxes at the GPA-CT Meet & Greet.
- Thanks to everyone who volunteers their time at GPA-CT events.
- Thanks to everyone who uses their Randall's/Safeway Good Neighbor Program card and has designated GPA-CT as a beneficiary.
- Thanks to everyone who donates through Soup Peeddler's SoupShare Programme.

## In Memoriam

**Lyle**, beloved greyhound of Sherman and Kathy Stone and family, May 31

**Ian**, beloved greyhound of Elizabeth Gibson, June 8

**Candi Devine**, beloved greyhound of Kathy, Lisa and Matt Lattavo and mother to Cassie, July 9

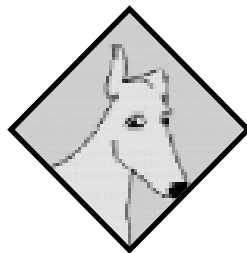
**Ginger**, beloved greyhound of Trevor and Nissa Lind, July 20

**Poppy**, beloved greyhound of Lance and Rae Anne Springer, July

**Francesca**, beloved greyhound of Angie Smith and Chad McDaniel, August 13

**Diane (Solitary Diane)**, beloved greyhound of Sherman and Kathy Stone and family and the extended GPA-CT family, August 15

**Gus**, beloved greyhound of Keisha and Curtis French, Ian, Doc, Jackson and Inga, Sept. 6



**The Grey Zone**  
**Houndsitting**  
Home Away From Home  
For your greyhound

**The Grey Zone takes the worry out of traveling for you!**

- Your Dog Enjoys » all the comforts of home (no kennels, no crates!)  
» exceptional care with round-the-clock love and attention
- And You Enjoy » Complete PEACE OF MIND knowing that your best friend is in the hands of a grey-savvy caretaker and having a blast at the coolest greyhound camp around!

Call Michele Truhlik for rates and reservations  
512-528-9998  
or email [mtruhlik@thegreyzone.net](mailto:mtruhlik@thegreyzone.net)

## Available Dogs



**Baron** — *Male, red brindle, 7 years old.* Baron is a beautiful red brindle who was found as a stray in Bastrop and

picked up from the county animal shelter. As is common in these situations, he was heartworm positive so is currently undergoing treatment. He will be ready for adoption once he is medically cleared, which hopefully should be late September.

**Larry** — *Male, black with white toes, approx. 15 months old, cat workable (but very curious!)*



We're learning more about Larry every day in his foster home. We know he's very curious about cats, but he seems to be workable around them. He seems way more interested in getting attention from people than getting attention from other dogs, at least right now. He likes to chew on things — after all, he is still a puppy — but his foster mom is working hard to deter that behavior.



**Leo** — *Male, red brindle, 7 years old, probably cat friendly.* Leo's outlook on life:

1. Squeakers are meant to be squeaked (not destroyed).
2. Balls are meant to be fetched.
3. Beds are meant to be slept in.
4. Counters are meant to be surfed.
5. My human is meant to be followed closely.
6. The lure at Speed Alley is meant to be chased into submission.
7. For no reason am I to be left alone. (Leo suffers from separation anxiety if left alone without any humans or dogs around.)

Although he has not been officially cat tested, he is more than likely small animal safe. He walks perfectly on a leash, always staying right by your side. He's a sweet affectionate boy who will make a great addition to a multi-dog family.



**Misty** — *Female, black with white, 6 years old, not cat friendly.* Misty is a former brood

mama who just came in from the farm on August 4. Her behavior in her foster home has been nothing short of wonderful. She gets along well with the other greyhounds and is very loving and good-natured. She loves walks and behaves nicely on a leash. She has adjusted to her foster home's normal routine almost seamlessly, although she will raid the kitchen counters given the opportunity. She is a little obsessed with squirrels but that is OK.

**Suzy Q** — *Female, black, 1 year old, definitely cat workable if not downright cat friendly.*

Suzy Q is just over a year old.



This small girl might not have won on the track but early results show that she could be a winner in just about any home. While adjusting to living in a home environment she quickly discovered the toy box, often carrying six or seven favorites into her crate. She gets along great with her big-dog friends and her housecat roommates. She would probably be happiest in a multi-dog family, although she has yet to be small dog or child tested. She has shown a keen interest in chasing the occasional rabbit she sees on our walks and in the backyard. She is quickly learning her name and, along with that, basic obedience and indoor manners. She seems to be a very intelligent, adaptable dog who should fit quickly and seamlessly into her new home.

**Sweet Cheeks** — *Female, black, 19 months old, cat workable.* Sweet Cheeks has the sleekest, glossiest coat imaginable, and she's tight like a body builder so when you touch her it feels like petting a brick! She's taken to the leash pretty well during short walks late at night when the temperature is bearable. In the mornings she's so happy to have someone let her out of the crate she's just beside herself. She likes to go out with her foster greyhound brothers and bark at the neighbor dogs (but that's a practice her foster parents are trying to discourage in all of them!).

Thanks to These Businesses and Individuals for Their Generous Support

**Barnes & Noble—Arboretum**  
512/418-8985

**Brykerwood Veterinary Clinic**  
Greg Biehle, DVM  
512/454-3833

**Buddy's Chance Dog Training and Behavior**  
5501 N. Lamar  
512/636-3793

**Emergency Animal Clinic of Northwest Austin**  
Scott Johnson, DVM  
512/331-6121

**Great Oaks Animal Hospital**  
Lisa Willis, DVM  
512/388-4551

**Horizon Graphics**  
512/989-0006

**North Austin Animal Hospital**  
512/459-7676

**Petco**  
Austin—area locations

**Soup Peddler**  
www.souppeddler.com

**Spicewood Springs Animal Hospital**  
Barak Benaryeh, DVM  
512/345-2727

**Taurus Training and Doggie Play Day**  
Four Austin-area locations  
512/442-3416

**Temple Veterinary Hospital**  
Gary Gosney, DVM  
254/773-1411

**Tomlinson's Westlake**  
512/306-1121

## Adoptions

**Rhody**, adopted July 15 by Alex Vaughn

**Tucker**, adopted July 30 by Ralph and Sheralynn Hart

**Valkyrie (CAH's Valkyrie)**, adopted August 15 by Brian Wagner

**Beverly (Slatex Beverly)**, adopted August 20 by Len Borowski and Tonia Gaston

**Petunia (Jody O'Toole)**, adopted August 30 by Lance and Rae Anne Springer



## Collar Safety Reminders For You and Your Greyhound

Updated by Donna Seago, with many thanks to Sally McIntosh for being a champion of this cause and originally aggregating this information for the good of this organization and greyhounds everywhere.

Greyhound adopters are well aware that because of the design of their necks and heads, greyhounds can't wear a typical dog collar and instead must opt for a martingale style collar. But over the years many of us become complacent about the correct use of these and other collars on our hounds. Here's a brief reminder about how to keep your greyhound safe while wearing what many consider to be "standard equipment."



### Martingale Style Collars

Because a greyhound's neck is only slightly larger than his head, it is very easy for him to back out of a standard collar and run off, risking becoming lost or dying. The martingale style collar, or humane choke collar, if properly fitted tightens when the dog pulls on the lead preventing him from coming out of the collar.

Martingale collars are fitted to the exact size of the dog's neck when the collar is pulled closed. Properly fitted, the collar will be comfortably loose when not in use. When the martingale control loop is pulled, the two slides (hardware) on the small control loop of the collar should pull close together but the two slides should never touch.

Identification tags should never be placed on the center "D" ring of the martingale collar, where the lead is fastened. Instead, tags should be attached to the oval shaped metal loops at either end of the control loop.

A nylon martingale collar is provided with the adoption of every greyhound through

GPA-CT and should always be used when you are walking your greyhound on a lead.

However, martingale collars were NEVER intended for any other use and should never be left on a dog unless he is being walked on a lead. Do not leave your dog unattended while they are wearing a martingale collar. Strangulation accidents occur when dogs are playing either alone or with other dogs. Collars may also become entangled with trees, fences, crates, decks, and many other things in a dog's environment. Because of the double loop design of these collars, they pose a strangulation hazard in these situations.



### Breakaway Collars

In addition to a martingale collar, a breakaway collar is now provided with the adoption of every greyhound through GPA-CT. This collar releases under pressure, such as a situation in which it is snagged on an object with the potential to cause strangulation. These collars are appropriate for your greyhound to wear around the house and within your fenced yard. Breakaway collars should NEVER be used to walk a greyhound on a lead as they can easily escape by backing out of the collar or causing the collar to pop open — or "break away" — by pulling hard on the lead.

### Quick Release Collars

Quick release collars can be found in a martingale style, with a buckle that can be operated with one hand when there is a person witnessing a dog in distress. If the dog is unattended at the time of the distress, the quick release collar is not useful. The quick release collar design has the advantage of the martingale style, which prevents a greyhound from backing out of it while on a lead. It also allows you to grab your dog by the collar in an emergency with confidence that the collar will not come open. These collars are not in regular production but are available by special order.

A discussion of collar safety isn't complete without reminders about identification, leashes and training.

### Identification

Because of the high risk of greyhound escape, you should always be scrupulous about identification for your dogs. No dog should ever leave the house without proper ID. A rabies tag can be kept in a drawer and produced on demand, but there must be some way to identify a dog if he gets away from you. Microchips, while not foolproof, are the first line of defense. Microchips are inexpensive and virtually painless when implanted. The microchip cannot be lost like a collar or tags can be lost.

ID tags should never be placed on the center "D" ring of a martingale collar. You may decide to omit tags entirely from the martingale collar, as a dog in that collar must always be with you on a lead, and instead put tags on the other collar that you use for play and around the house activities. Remember that dangling tags always pose a hazard. There are other creative ways, such as embroidery, to have contact information on your dog's collar. Some adopters choose not to have a collar on an indoor dog, instead relying on the microchip should a dog escape the home or yard.

### Leashes

A 6-ft. nylon lead is the best choice for walking your greyhound. Retractable leashes (or "flexi" leads) are NEVER to be used while walking a greyhound. (Please refer to the most recent version of the GPA-CT adoption agreement.) They are too easily entangled with other leashes, dogs and people, leading to dog fights, bite wounds and injuries to people.

*Food for thought:* What happens when your greyhound runs out the entire length of lead at top speed chasing a squirrel, and pulls the 6 lb. plastic handle out of your hand? Now you have a loose dog running away from you with a heavy, loud, bouncing object behind them that they can't outrun. Just imagine all the horrible fates this terrified greyhound with 25 feet of lead attached to it might meet when it is trapped, caught or strangled by the lead.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Collar Safety Reminders

(Continued from page 4)

### Training

Most of us who adopt retired racing greyhounds don't spend very much time on training. We really don't have to, because they are generally so well socialized before they ever come to us. But if we are going to do everything we can to protect our wonderful companions we need to spend the time teaching them a minimum of two essential behaviors — "Come" and "Wait." Training with greyhounds should always consist of positive reinforcement, never negative or punishing methods. A number of professional trainers are available to help you learn to train your dog so that you have more control over his behavior.

### Protect Your Greyhound

Consider these things in order to give maximum protection to your greyhound:

A greyhound should only be allowed off-lead in a fenced play area.

Outside of a fenced area, your greyhound should always be under control on a 4- to 6-ft. nylon lead wearing a martingale style collar.

Retractable leashes (or "flexi" leads) should never be used when walking your greyhound.

Maintain two properly fitted collars for each dog — a martingale collar attached to his lead, and either a breakaway or quick release collar for play and day-to-day activities.

ID tags should be properly attached to the martingale collar.

Have a microchip implanted for ID in the event your greyhound escapes its home or yard.

Consider positive reinforcement training to lessen the risk of losing control of your greyhound in any situation.

Evaluate your situation, educate yourself, and make decisions to increase the likelihood you and your hound will be companions for many years to come.

## Soup Sharing Program

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 website, [www.souppeddler.com/?Click=7017](http://www.souppeddler.com/?Click=7017).

### GPA-CT 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 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 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 our website at [www.gpacentraltexas.org](http://www.gpacentraltexas.org) and follow the instructions to join. Or send a blank email to [gpact-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:gpact-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com). It's a great way to stay informed.

Greyhound Pets of America —  
Central Texas  
PO Box 10069  
Austin, TX 78766

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

To join the email announcement list, send a blank email to: [gpact-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:gpact-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com)

Submissions to PAWS & Reflect are due the 10th of the month. Send your story or photos to [newsletter@gpacentraltexas.org](mailto:newsletter@gpacentraltexas.org). GPA-CT reserves the right to edit all submissions.

### Newsletter Services – Thank You:

To Mike Spann and Horizon Graphics for donating copying services. To Christine Sherrod for design and typography of the 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.

### GPA-CT Meet & Greet Locations

#### 2nd SATURDAY

##### Tomlinson's Westlake

3300 Bee Cave (Westbank Market)  
(512) 306-1121

#### 3rd SATURDAY

##### Petco Austin-Tech Ridge (Parmer Lane)

500 Canyon Ridge Dr., 78753  
(512) 491-0651

#### 3rd SATURDAY

##### Petco Temple

2112 SW H.K. Dodgen Loop, Ste. 130,  
76504, (254) 770-1333

#### 4th SATURDAY

##### Petco Austin-North (Arboretum)

9828 Great Hills Tr., 78759  
(512) 345-2355

Please visit [gpacentraltexas.org](http://gpacentraltexas.org) for specific dates and times.





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



## Greyhound Pets of America—Central Texas

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  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) nonprofit corporation.  
Donations to GPA-CT are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

