



The Greyhound Gazette

GPA-Emerald Pacific Chapter **SPRING 2003** **VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2**

From Elli Koivu, Chapter President

Hello!

As your newly elected president, I want to thank you for letting me have this opportunity to represent you and GPA-EP. I'm not as professional as some, but I hope to "get the job done!" We are all here for the Greyhounds and share the desire to do as much as we can for them.

Thank-you, Ed Shadle, for the job you did as last year's President, for your time, commitment and love of our Greyhounds. Ed remains on our board to help in anyway he can.

Winter Daze was a hit again this year, and what a daze we were in! We had a tremendous new location this year at the armory, and hope to be there again next year. A greyt big thank-you goes to Sgt.Wiley for the security she provided us during the event and to the many others like herself who offer to protect us each and every day! We had participants from all parts of the United States join us this year. We had Sue Horner, from Greytwear in Missouri, and Sara Showalter's Klassy K-9 from Virginia. Patty Lehnart, Dick and Donna Gage came from Multnomah Greyhound Park. Patty is the Animal Welfare Coordinator at MGP. Dick Gage wears many hats. He is the Head of OGA, Oregon Greyhound Association and liaison officer for Oregon Greyhound Breeders Association. Donna is the Kennel Master and head "Mom" for our adoption program. She and her co-workers do a tremendous job caring for our adoptive dogs!

Last but not least thank you to all the venders. We hope it was worth their time and effort. We appreciated having them attend.

We welcomed many new volunteer members into our effort this year. We thank them for all their contributions, knowledge and hard work.

There are a few areas in which we would like to concentrate our goals for 2003. A very important area is National GPA's "7x7 Program" It is a concerted effort to increase the number of new adoption groups by recruiting more volunteers and forming new chapters in less concentrated areas. The goal is to have 7000 Greyhounds adopted a year by 2007.

Secondly, more effort can go to getting acquainted with our fellow Greyhound chapters here in the Northwest community. There are so many more dogs that need our help! We could develop goals to increase public education by networking here at home and strengthening local ties while increasing our profile nationally.

The kind and respectful treatment of any animal is important. We can all make a difference, but together we can make a bigger difference. "Adoption IS an option." If adoption for you isn't possible, donate... your time, your skill, or your finances.

Thank-you!
Elli

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Calendar of Upcoming Events & Activities

- **March 1**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Lakewood; 11 am-2 pm
- **March 8** Show 'N Tell Petco in Gig Harbor; 11 am-2 pm
- **March 21**-Board Meeting at Puyallup Elks, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
- **April 5** Show 'N Tell Petco in Lakewood, 11 am-2 pm
- **April 12**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Gig Harbor, 11 am-2 pm
- **April 24**-Board Meeting at Puyallup Elks, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
- **May 3**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Lakewood, 11 am-2 pm
- **May 10**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Gig Harbor, 11 am-2 pm
- **May 23**-Board Meeting at Puyallup Elks, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
- **June 7**-Show 'N Tell-Petco in Lakewood, 11 am-2 pm
- **June 14**-Show 'N Tell-Petco in Gig Harbor, 11 am-2 pm

What Could Be Better Than Owning A Greyhound?

My wife, two daughters and I adopted our first retired racing greyhound back in 1993. And like the old potato chip adage, "you can't have just one". Another greyhound soon joined the family. Our love and admiration for greyhounds grew as more of these lovable creatures found their way into our lives and into our hearts. We flunked fostering 101 a couple of times. Every time an interested family would come along looking at *our* foster, well, lets just say we found a reason why *our* foster dog could not leave. I think it was something about those eyes that said, "Can't I stay here?"

At greyhound Meet and Greets, I have been known to tell the story of when our oldest daughter found her life's sole mate, married, and left home taking our first greyhound with her. While we love our daughter dearly, we sure missed that dog!! So for us, could there be any other pet that would be better than owning a retired greyhound? We didn't think so. We've owned lots of cats and a terrier raised from a puppy. The terrier was nice, but nothing like a greyhound... Terrier puppy-hood was a challenge. So again, what could possible be better then a greyhound? We were about to find out.



This is the First Meet 'N Greet for Taz. He caused quite a stir!

little female greyhound who later gave birth to 10 black puppies. A large brood as the normal litter size is from 6 to 8 puppies, but what to do with 10 puppies? Well, adoption groups often network together where from

In Alberta, Canada, greyhound racing is unlike here in the States. A story worth telling but we will save that for another time. An unplanned breeding at this unconventional track resulted in an Alberta adoption group swinging into action to rescue a beautiful

word-of-mouth, we learned that greyhound puppies were up for adoption. Now don't get ahead of me here.

"Do we really want a puppy?" we asked ourselves. But after seeing those cute puppy pictures on the Internet—well, maybe. We were told that we were "crazy" to even think about adopting a greyhound puppy. "Greyhound puppies are wild! They run all the time." We were told that a greyhound puppy would chew up our house. We were not getting much encouragement—and this was coming from our greyhound enthusiast friends!



Taz in one of his first pictures.

We've seen greyhound puppies at the breeding kennels. These puppies are all soooooo cute and so loveable! Jaime, my youngest daughter, was looking for a puppy to hone her dog training skills. We decided we had to have a greyhound puppy. So a trip to Alberta and eleven-week-old Taz joined the Reimer greyhound family.

We immediately fell in love with Taz. He is all black with a little white on his toes and white on his chest that forms a "T". No coincidence here that Taz's name was influenced by his markings and the wild greyhound puppy reputation. Let me tell you, Taz is so cute and lovable. He is an absolute joy and there is no doubt he does love to run! But Taz does not live up to the naysayers warnings about a greyhound puppy, even into his sixth month of puppy-hood.

Taz is now the size of a whippet and growing fast. And what adventures we have to share, but alas, we are out of print space. So for the rest of the story of Taz, look for *Part II* where we share what it is like living with a greyhound puppy in your next issue of *The Greyhound Gazette*. And for us, absolutely nothing can be better than owning a retired racing greyhound... unless it is a greyhound puppy!

-D.Reimer

Words About Dogs

"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." - Will Rogers

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."- Anonymous

"A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down. - Robert Benchley

"I wonder what goes through his mind when he sees us peeing in his water bowl."- Penny Ward Moser

"Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend; inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."- Groucho Marx

"There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face." - Ben Williams

Jolly Joints-

Reprinted with permission by Claudia Presto of the Greyhoundgang.org

Good parents want the best and longest life for their children. Greyhound parents are no exception. Just about every greyhound has joint issues – Osteoarthritis, also called Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD), is the most common. Broken hocks and toes, spinal injuries, disk compressions and calcifications, ruptured cruciate ligaments, spondylitis and others are appearing as more greyhounds find their way to loving homes and longer lives.

My most favorite topic of discourse on greyhound health is arthritis. The majority have it. You might not notice it as it may not have progressed to a point where pain is evident, and they might be stoic and not telling you - but they are feeling it. The wear and tear from training, racing, and living in crates wreaks havoc on the joints and cartilage. It's visible in the hundreds of greyhounds that have passed through the Gang's home. It's visible in all those dogs walking Dewey Beach each year. Greyhounds, in particular, need help to ease the pain in those joints.

Here's an analogy for a very basic joint/cartilage summary. You're sitting on the wood floor. It's hard and inflexible. You put a pillow under you, and it's softer and more comfortable. The longer you use that pillow, the less cushiony it becomes as it suffers the trauma of you using it (some more vigorously than others), and the dog pulling pieces out of it (some more vigorously than others), and the more you start to feel the hard floor.

The joints in your body are no different. Your joints and bone need the cushion provided by the articular cartilage. Cartilage is made up of water, collagen and some complex proteins. Age and wear and tear degrade this cartilage, just like a pillow loses its cushiony plumpness. The joint capsule, which produces (synovial) fluids, encloses the joints and its cavities nourishing the cartilage. When damage occurs, repeatedly, enzymes erode cartilage, synovial fluid loses its lubricating quality and the cycle just escalates.

As you read this list of natural supplements, which can help retard and correct this arthritic degradation, please understand that this is information based on research and knowledge gleaned from hundreds of greyhounds passing through the Gang on their way to their forever homes. Consulting a qualified traditional vet and holistic vet is always a good idea. I consult with a few vets at all times, because not all vets have the same knowledge base; and I use the internet. The

more information I have and the more educated I am on the subject, the best help I can give my dog. A traditional vet will prescribe traditional medicines like buffered aspirin, rimadyl, prednisone for arthritis. These medicines will provide pain relief, but they will only mask the problem, not correct it. From my experiences with arthritis, I prefer to try and fix the problem by using more natural methods first.

This list (which is always mutating) is what I give to any greyhound that has trained, raced or broken something. (I also use this for all the spinal/disk injuries evident as greyhounds age.) I start with the first supplement - glucosamine, and add and subtract as I watch the dogs and their reactions. You can even give when no signs are visibly present, but other issues present themselves – like broken hocks, toes, racing career, age, etc. Preventative care, as well as treatment of current aches and pains, is always a good idea.

The web has lots of technical information about how and why these supplements work. This article will not go into detail about why this stuff works. You can find that information on the internet. These natural supplements have the ability to replenish the fluids, decrease the inflammation, and stop enzymes from killing all the good cells. These herbal remedies have been used for centuries by the Chinese and Europeans, and in the past years Americans are finally starting to see the value of these supplements. Do give them a try for it's a win-win situation for you and your dogs. They are inexpensive, and they can truly make a difference.

Glucosamine HCL - To help repair cartilage, replenish synovial fluids

1500 mgs a day for a dog over 50 lbs.

Two months minimum, daily

Chondroitin – Bovine or Shark -To help repair cartilage. Anecdotal evidence for tumor reduction with cancer when using Shark Cartilage.

800 - 3000 mgs a day

Two months minimum, daily

Omega 3's - For antioxidants and inflammation, and skin.

As needed or daily

Continued on page 4

Jolly Joints Continued

Acupuncture – monthly or more often as needed

Chiropractic – monthly or more often as needed

Massage – daily ☺. Please come to my house too.

MSM - For inflammation, as needed

1000 – 1500 mgs a day

Yucca - For inflammation, as needed

Ester C - For antioxidants, as needed

Velvet Elk Antler – www.qeva.com

For joints, as needed

Other herbal tinctures – www.herbsforanimals.com

www.azmira.com

Adequan – A very intensive application of glucosamine. Six shots over a month's time frame.

Expensive when done by your vet.

Other ways you can help arthritic Dogs

Dogs getting into cars.

Help your dog. Spot them. Have them put their front feet up and then you put your hand underneath their belly, and behind their butt and gently move them forward into the car. It doesn't hurt you, and doesn't hurt them. It helps their spines with the wear and tear of jumping into a car. Or get a ramp or steps made.

Walking-Don't take your dogs for a longer walk than they can handle. Don't make them stand forever while you are busy talking to a neighbor, doing Meet & Greets etc. Always bring a bed for them to lay down on at Meet & Greets.

Bedding-While any soft, deep surface is coveted by greyhounds. Egg Crate mattresses with lots of padding (comforters, blankets etc.), and heated beds are helpful for arthritic dogs.

Caveats:

Not all supplements are created equal, and you want to make sure you are getting a good product. Bottle should say standardized, high quality, and disclose complete information. Bottle should tell you how much and what is in each pill. Look also for testing information. (www.drtheo.com reviews glucosamine/

chondroitin products; www.consumerreports.org also reviews supplements)

Dog supplements are just human supplements repackaged. No difference, just the price. You can buy good products for your dog (and you) at health food stores, and even Wal-Mart. Check the labels closely on items bought in grocery stores and warehouses – they might not be high-quality and a waste of money and time. Supplements bought in vet offices are usually high quality, but also very expensive because of the distribution chain.

Glucosamine in food or treats is NOT enough to help most arthritic situations. 1500 mgs a day (for a dog over 50 lbs.) is needed initially, and you will not get that from glucosamine baked in food. I'm not even sure glucosamine retains its efficacy when baked. In my opinion, those products are just using it as a marketing ploy.

My review of the studies indicates that Glucosamine HCL is a better product than Glucosamine Sulfate. It only goes through one process, and so the efficacy of the glucosamine is much higher per mg.

Every dog is an individual, and what works for one, doesn't necessarily work for another. You need to try, and monitor and judge, and make decisions based on your observations and your intuition. If you are trying to help, you will.

When any of my greyhounds have a health issue, I become an expert in my own mind.

All the information presented here is knowledge gleaned from research and first hand. I am not a vet, though I pretend to be one many times. ☺

Please don't let arthritis debilitate your dog. Have a jolly holiday season, and give your dog the opportunity to romp and cockroach and play bow. The suggestions above can help, and keep your dog (and you) alive longer and in better health.

Claudia Presto founded the Greyhound Gang in 1995. Her adoption, fundraising and education efforts continue and are totally supported by the sales of Get Up & Go Glucosamine and Shark Cartilage. It's inexpensive, high quality, and proceeds go back to help greyhounds still in need. A win-win-win situation. The Gang's web site - www.greyhoundgang.org - has an Overview, Q&A, (unsolicited) Testimonials and more. Claudia spent hours agonizing over this article just so she could get that (very important) plug in.

Granny - Adopting a Special Needs Dog

Reprinted with permission from the author, Tracy Zimmer, and Donna D'Amico of GreytDogs.com where you can find many helpful articles.

I have had Granny for 1 1/2 years now and she is going through the final stages of kidney failure. When I adopted her I knew this was in her future and I am very grateful I got to spend the last years of her life with her. I would like some good to come out of her death so I can convince one person to adopt a special needs dog her death will have some meaning. So here goes Granny, this one's for you.

Most of us think of a special needs dog and say "I don't have the time" or "I don't want a dog that is just going to die soon". Well, that's not necessarily true. They might just need an extra cuddle or two and most of them live a lot longer than you think. Just remember, that young, healthy dog you have could suddenly have an accident or get some mysterious illness. There are no guarantees in life. The unexpected sometimes happens so give your dog an extra hug and take the time to appreciate him today.

A special needs dog could just be a dog that needs to live with another greyhound. There are some extra shy dogs out there who need the confidence they can only get from another hound. They need a family that has some patience and is willing to socialize them. Not very

time consuming and believe me, these dogs bond to you like super glue.

There are also the older dogs from 8-12 years old. Most people balk at this because they think the dogs are going to die too soon. Let's remember these guys can live up to 15 and I can't think of anything more rewarding than making the last years of a dog's life the best that they can be.

Occasionally we get dogs that aren't in the best of health. These hounds do require more medical attention but believe me they are worth it. I would much rather spend my money on someone who appreciates me and unconditionally loves me than on inanimate objects that just sit there.

If you have a little extra room in your home and in your heart please consider these dogs. I have to admit there is a certain gratification in knowing that I am the only one who could ever take care of Granny. I know that most people would have given up on her long ago, but look at all they would have missed. Just one look from Granny and I know it is all worth it. So ask yourself, "Are you that extra special family that these dogs so desperately need?" Can you open your heart just a little bit so you can be rewarded with undying love? I have done it and I would do it again in a heartbeat!

Just Let Your Fingers Do the Walking

Ever wonder what your poochies do while you're away at work? When we adopt, we are told they are the 40 mile per hour couch potatoes, who save all their energy for when their owners come home to smother them with doggie kisses of love...but I beg to differ. That is not all they do.

It was your typical work day. My husband and I were eagerly awaiting our "greyhound greeting" we always get when arriving home. As the electric gate swung open to our driveway and garage it revealed, at first glance, a scene that resembled a ticker-tape parade, apparently being held in our honor. Studying the situation more closely, we discovered that our two new phone books (probably left conveniently just inside our fence by an unsuspecting boy scout volunteer) had been used as a new doggie toy shredded into teeny tiny little pieces all over our yard.

Our first reaction was to be angry, which soon turned to laughter. Konrad, with what I think was the reptile to res-

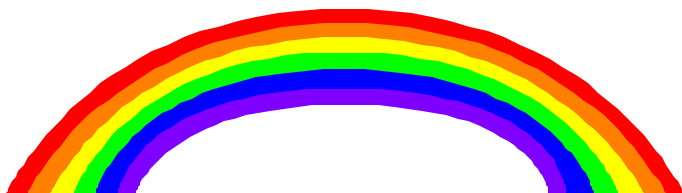
taurant section still in his mouth, was having the best of times while his co-hort in crime, Cayenne looked on.

Although we still get smothered with love every time we come home from work, we have learned our lesson. Konrad and Cayenne do a little more than just sleep while we are away. And don't bother asking Pat or myself for a phone number, as we now dial directory assistance! -J.Ross



Konrad is caught killing the phone book!!!

Rainbow Bridge Crossings



Kyra, 9 & 1/2 years. Loved and missed by Elaine Hiott and Karon VanGilder

Terren; 11 & 1/2 years. Loved and missed by Richard and Ellie Racek

Scout; 10 & 1/2 years. Loved and missed by Jim & Joy Wood.

Randi; 12 years young. Loved and missed by George & Catherine Monty.

Yardley, 9 & 1/2 years. Loved and Missed by Brian & Jan Kraft.

Checkers; 14 years young. Loved and missed by Joan Parks.

Checkerboard Cup

Loved by Joan Parks, Emily, Alex and Molly Campbell

Let me tell you about my newest angel, Checkers. Mr. Checkerboard Cup came to live with me in February 2001, at a wonderful 12 years of age. He had been returned to GPA-EP at Winter Daze after a traumatic event. He was so confused and afraid; I knew I had found myself another Grey. For the next 6 months, he lived on his red corduroy pillow behind my son's bedroom door. Jetta, my other grey helped Checkers by licking his ears and "showing him the ropes". He slowly came to trust and love again. We gave him greyhound prizes like: Biggest Eras, Longest Tail, and Biggest Heart. He had a sterling racing career at MGP and was retired at age 5, which was hard for him. He didn't want to stop racing. He knew he could run with the best of them! He came to love life and was actually pretty funny. He loved to stand at the top of the yard and lope in, his long tail working like a crank. He had vision problems, but there wasn't anything wrong with his hearing! He could hear the back gate open and then he knew Grandpa was coming with a cookie. Checkers, at age 14, joined all his other greyhound friends at the bridge on Valentine's Day. He left our home, but not our hearts! What a boy!



Recipes

Power Packed Peanut Butter Cookies

1/4 cup shortening
1/2 cup Peanut Butter
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 egg
1/2 cup wheat germ
3 Tbls. water
3/4 cup whole wheat flour
1/4 cup soy flour
1/2 cup powdered milk



Miss Minnie is our taste tester

Preheat oven to 375.
Combine shortening, peanut butter, sugar, and egg and mix well until smooth. Stir in wheat germ and water. Combine and add flours & powdered milk. Roll into 1 inch balls and place on greased cookie sheet. Bake 8 minutes. Let cool and serve.

Baby Food Dog Cookies

3 small jars baby meat, 2 1/2 oz. size
1/4 cup powdered non-fat milk
1/4 cup wheat germ

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
Combine ingredients in a bowl and mix well. Roll into small balls and place on well-greased cookie sheet. Flatten slightly with a fork. Bake for 15 minutes or until brown. Cool on wire racks and store in refrigerator. May be frozen.

This is a great one for the greys that need or want soft tasty treats. Our taste testers loved these!!

Winter Daze

GPA-Emerald Pacific was joined by many of the area's greyhound friends and fanciers in helping shake off the winter doldrums and celebrating greyhounds and their people. We had a parade, games and contests for people and their dogs. Many greyhounds found their "twin" or were recognized for other unique qualities. We all know our greyhounds are special; some were awarded for it.

It was a happy, busy, loud, enjoyable, day. What a way to spend a Saturday; shopping, eating, drinking, and being surrounded by greyhounds! The small town of Buckley may never be the same.

There were several pre-approved adoptive families anxiously awaiting the arrival of the hounds from the track that morning. Once the greyhounds arrived, those lucky families were able to meet their new family members. All families and hounds are doing well and as of last report; the greyhounds are instructing their new families well.

We had many vendors participate in Winter Daze.

One of the vendors had a long round trip, Sara Showalter of Classy Canine. She lives in Virginia, but was visiting in the area on the exact weekend and agreed to participate in our event. That is a **long** commute! Thank you to all vendors who helped to celebrate greyhounds at Winter Daze! There were also a few special guests who decided to drop in!

With the help of many volunteers and many, many more donations this was our most successful fundraiser yet! We had some extraordinary items available through our auctions. Many people went home with some fantastic and one of a kind items. Most importantly, we introduced more people to greyhounds and a few fortunate people were able to add a greyhound to their family.

Please know that without the active participation of so many people and their wonderful hounds, it would not have been as successful. GPA-Emerald Pacific is only as strong as it's support and it appears that GPA-Emerald Pacific is very strong indeed. Thank you to all who participated.

You are all winners!

-P.Harris

Donations!!

Emerald Pacific would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support.

Trinity and Dave Joy
Margaret Harris
Jenny Kilen
John Skewes
Sue Thiel
Cheryl Mevi a
Merle Eckmeyer
Jon & Elli Koivu
Jan Kraft
Wendy Schoepf
Jennifer Howard Custom Arts and Crafts
North Coast Greyhound Support
Greyhound Gang
KV Vet Supply
GreyhoundMagnets.com
Wild Things for Greys
Pets Mega-Store
Iceberg Creations
Kim's Crafts
Greyhound Designs
Graphic Garb
Direct Pet Super Store
Greytgifts.com
Mrs. Bone's Decorative Dog Collars
Carpe Canem
GreytWear.com

Voyagers Jewelry Design
Cindyrella Dog Cookies
K-9 Designs
ArtsyFartsyGreyhoundGoodies.com
Celebrating Greyhound Magazine
No Nude Hounds
GPA-NorthWest
Petco
Wiggles, Wags and Whiskers
PetSmart
Greys Corner
Simply Hot, Inc.
Halemar Specialties, Inc
Hound Togs
Black Horse Design
Sudden Printing
Scott of Fast Jack Sportswear
Golden Hound
GreyhoundHut
Brass and More
Duds 4 Buds
GPA-Southern Nevada/Las Vegas
Milestone Products
Val's Pajamas
Classy Canine
Del's Farm Supply
HotRods4U

Thanks to all the volunteers for their dedication & support!

Available Dogs!



Multnomah Kennel Update: There are currently **66** dogs waiting for adoption in the “adoption kennels”, at Multnomah Greyhound Park. With the racing season getting ready to start again, there will be many more greyhounds waiting to get into the adoption kennel. Please spread the word about Greyhound adoption and these deserving dogs so they can find their own couch to enjoy their retirement

Currently, there are no dogs in foster homes. We are happy to report that as soon as dogs are brought up from Multnomah, we have had many willing families ready to open their hearts and homes to these wonderful dogs. A big thank you to all those families, plus all the volunteers who make it possible! Keep checking the Multnomah Kennel through their web site; www.oregongreyhound.com There are still many wonderful dogs waiting for homes. We would love to bring some more to their forever homes! You may also call one of the adoption reps. to inquire about availability at 1-800-366-1472 or 253-756-6698

Dogs Adopted-New Family Members!

We would like to congratulate the following families and their new additions!!

Blade	Brian & Jan Kraft
Lad	Joan Parks
Hombre	Tim & Lori McConnell
Windy	Wendy Schoepf
Stryder	Kurt & Giselle Roedel
Carly	Chris & Kristina Ralls
Eulogy	Jan & Cindi Blechschmidt
Happy	Mike & Lynn Sekerak
Aikman	Don & Tami Simms
Ally	Russ & Terri Ranger
Rosie & Pearl	Dean Scott
Real Deal	Carlos & Suzanne Romero
Slim	Sam & Tara Cowert

Taz	Jaime Reimer
Marsha	George & Theresa Monty
Thaden	Bruce & RJ
Brittany	Randy Reed
Dante	The Elrod Family
Roxy	John & Ruth Huntigdale
Whizzer	Mark & Janet Todd
Monica	Joy Wood
Kid's Billy Joe	Kevin & Terri Hostbjor
Jasper	Darrell & Susan Reimer
Jinny	Art & Becky Stiles

Congratulations to all the families and their new greyhounds. Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to these wonderful dogs.



Blade, our sweet senior, was adopted by Jan & Brian.



Aikman with the Simms Family



Eulogy in her first family photo



Kristina and Chris picked up their new girl, Carly, at Winter Daze.



Tim & Lori with Hombre.



Stryder with Giselle & Kurt at Winter Daze. His whole wardrobe was completed, thanks to some serious shopping.



Happy Sekerak



Ally after the Holiday Parade

Adopt a Senior Month?

"*Adopt a Senior Month? What's the purpose of that", I thought. Then I realized that many people don't know the joys of having older greyhounds in their home. I know that the greyhound adoption movement is over ten years old but it has really gained in popularity in the last few years, so most greyhound owners are still relatively new greyhound owners and they likely have younger hounds in the house.

I have several greys in my home and 2 of them are gracefully ageing seniors. They are a joy to my family and remind us daily of the importance of the little things. I have a full house of greyhounds and a full life, or so I thought....I went to pick up dog food from one of the local adoption reps. She also fosters greyhounds, young, old, sick and healthy. I knew that I was "safe"; I already had a full house and a very small car! Yeah right! I met 3 of her current fosters while picking up the dog food. One of them was an old guy who was happy and healthy and very friendly. I petted him and all the others and got my bags of food and made it out of there, quickly! I tried very hard not to think about his happy face for 2 whole days, not very successfully. I knew he was safe where he was, but he needed a permanent home.

I made it 2 days without telling my husband about this sweet old guy. I am very proud of that! I told my husband (we are well over our own preset limit of 2, I told you only 2!!!) and his response was, "Well, why is he still there? Why haven't we got him in our home yet? Better call and make sure he is still there!"

I did call and left a message, hoping that since he was an "oldie" he would be passed by and still available for us. It was a long evening, waiting for that return call. The adoption rep. did return my call that evening. She informed me that he was still there and thought I might like to foster him. She was a bit surprised when I said, "No, I don't foster! I want to give him his forever home." I picked him up the next day.

I appreciate the family that cared about him enough to give him back to the adoption group so he could find a new home. That must have taken a lot of courage and compassion to make sure he would get another try at a home. I hope they know that he is well loved and very spoiled in our home.

We have enjoyed watching him fit in to our family of greyhounds seamlessly and getting to know him and his puppy playfulness (someone must have forgotten to tell him he is a senior). It feels like we have had him for years, he is such a lovable dog. I do not regret my decision to add another senior to our home. We know life never comes with guarantees and our time with him may be short, but he brings so much joy to our home, it is well worth it!!

-P. Harris

**Adopt a Senior Month is May, contact an adoption representative regarding the programs available for Seniors!!*



Board of Directors and Others

Greyhound Pets of America/Emerald Pacific

President Elli Koivu
Vice President Tom Skewes
Secretary Joan Parks
Treasurer Jon Koivu

Additional Board Members: Merle Eickmeyer, Jamie Reimer, Ed Shadle, Susan Reimer & Pippa Harris.

Event Coordinator: Wendy Schoepf

1-800 national rep: Merle Eickmeyer

Newsletter: Pippa Harris, Jenny Kilen, Jan Kraft.

A heartfelt thank you and best wishes go to Darrell Reimer, for his dedication and service to the Emerald Pacific Board of Directors. Emerald Pacific would also like to thank Ed Shadle for his service and dedication as the Chapter President. We couldn't have done it without either of them and their tireless dedication and work.

Attend a Board meeting! The meetings are open to the membership and you are invited to attend. It often happens that the attending members have the best ideas, contacts or solutions for decisions the board must make.

Meetings are held the **Fourth** Friday of the month at the Puyallup Elks club at 6:30 pm. Remember, your involvement is what makes this chapter strong!

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GPA-EMERALD PACIFIC CHAPTER



Calendar of Events & Activities

- **March 1**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Lakewood; 11 am-2 pm
- **March 8**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Gig Harbor; 11 am-2 pm
- **March 21**-Board Meeting at Puyallup Elks, 6:30pm-8:30 pm
- **April 5**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Lakewood, 11 am-2 pm
- **April 12**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Gig Harbor, 11 am-2 pm
- **April 24**-Board Meeting at Puyallup Elks, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
- **May 3**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Lakewood, 11 am-2 pm
- **May 10**-Show 'N Tell Petco in Gig Harbor, 11 am-2 pm
- **June 7**-Show 'N Tell-Petco in Lakewood, 11 am-2 pm
- **June 14**-Show 'N Tell-Petco in Gig Harbor, 11 am-2 pm

If you have any questions regarding any of the upcoming events and activities, please go to our web site for more detailed information and driving directions, if needed.

If you know of an event that you think Emerald Pacific should participate in and that greyhounds would be a welcome addition, please let us know. We are al-