Happy Holidays!! I wish you Happy Holidays and hope you find peace and love of life in 2015.

GPI has been a busy place in recent months. We had our fantastic Walkathon in July and raised some wonderful funds for the dogs. Then there was our annual picnic as well as several regional events. We also had our annual Howlidays Craft Fair on November 2nd at the Brightwater Center and it was a resounding success. Thank you to everyone who participated in and contributed to all our events. Watch for information on our upcoming 2015 events.

GPI is still bringing in NGA greyhounds from various locations around the USA (in fact we just brought in 32 dogs from Florida), and we are also bringing in greyhounds and greyhound mixes from various locations around the world, including the USA. This year we have brought in several dogs from the Midwest in a partnership with the American Lurcher Project. We have also been brought in several more greyhound/greyhound mixes from South Korea in partnership with Team Inch and 14 retired racers from Ireland in partnership with Flying Irish Greyhounds. The NGA greyhounds will continue to be our main focus as long as feasible.

You can read about the Irish dogs in this issue of the Bark, as well as more information about the steps involved in bringing the dogs in from Ireland.

Greyhound Only: Most of our events are “Greyhound Only”. The question was brought to the board about how the “Greyhound Only” policy works with GPI now working to find homes for lurchers out of the Mid-west, Irish Greyhounds, and Korean greyhounds and greyhound mixes. A very good question. The answer is that any dog adopted through GPI is welcome at a GPI event where “Greyhounds Only” are permitted. The only exception is that puppies may not attend the events due to safety concerns for both the puppy and the other dogs in attendance.

Leptospirosis: The Board was asked about having the GPI dogs vaccinated against Leptospirosis. We have looked into this further and have determined that the increased costs are justified and we will incorporate this into our standard protocols for most available dogs. You may want to contact your vet and determine whether the Lepto vaccine makes sense for your personal dogs.

Some information about Lepto:
- It is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that lives in water or warm, wet soil.
- It produces flu like symptoms, but can become life threatening and affects the kidneys, liver, brain, lungs and heart. The death rate from Lepto is very high.
- It can be spread to humans.
- Infection happens through contact with the urine of infected animals – usually in water or on wet ground.
- The local Western Washington vets have seen an increase in the number of Lepto cases in recent months.
- The current Lepto vaccine typically covers 4 strains of the disease (where the old vaccine only covered 2 strains) and is much safer than earlier versions of the vaccine with less reactivity in most dogs.
- The Lepto vaccine requires 1 shot, with a booster in 2 to 4 weeks.
- If the booster shot is not given or not given within 2 to 4 weeks, you need to redo both shots or there is no immunity
- The Lepto shot is good for 1 year.

Have a good winter everyone and a Happy Holidays! Thank you for all you do for the dogs!!

Moira
President
Every issue of the Bark I ponder over who I should write about next. Well, this time it was evident that the very Editor of The Bark should be highlighted. Michelle Buchan and Steve Waines are our Canada Regional VP (him) and Editor of The Bark (her). Seems like a logical choice to me.

They are an integral part of our GPI family and every time you hear of an adoption going to Canada you can thank these two and their volunteers for all their hard work.

Steve and Michelle are native Canadians. Steve grew up in Aldergrove, BC. He was a very active kid, playing Soccer, La Crosse, Hockey and Track. His first “real” pet was a feral kitten that his family adopted when he was about 16 or 17. This great hunter lived with his parents for 18 years!!! Michelle grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. At 22 she moved to Hinton, Alberta where she lived for 4 years. After Hinton, she moved to Penticton, BC for 3 years. Steve and Michelle met when she had a flower shop and he worked for the wholesale company that supplied her flowers. She likes the “warmer” winters in Langley. Hard to imagine, but better than the minus 40 degree temps in Hinton. She grew up around dogs, so her love of the species comes naturally.

Between them, they have three kids, although none of them are really “kids” at this point. Michelle’s two are Allysha who is 21 and Jordan who is 20. Steve’s son Devon is 20. Allysha recently moved out with her 8 month old pup, Meelah, and her rabbit, Willard. She works at their veterinary clinic. Jordan is loving the only child attention, so may never leave! Devon lives with his Mom.

As family they have had many four legged family members. Meeko, Michelle’s Bichon Friese went to the Bridge last year after a long life of 16.5 years. Then there’s Bandit, the Border Collie/Greyhound/Shephard mix. Meeko and Bandit were 4H dogs and during this time they were introduced to a Greyhound in their 4H group. When Michelle saw 4 other matching blue Greyhounds at a 4H event, she was hooked! They got their first Greyhound in 2004. That was the beginning…….

As is usually the case, they went looking for a female, brindle and young. Koda was 15 months, but male and not brindle. Sounds like my first one. LOL Koda was, it turned out, was not for the faint of heart. Steve said that if you met him, there was no need to explain him. He brought excitement, frustration and lots of laughs with his big personality in a 72 pound package. He has since gone to the Bridge and is running with Meeko. Karma joined their pack in 2005. Karma was a good match for the “challenging” Koda. She was a steel magnolia. Quiet and reserved on the outside, but the helicopter tail tells who she really is. The fifth in the family is Fleet. They have had Fleet as a foster for 8 years. Foster? Really? He is 15 years old now. He’s the rude member of the family, he doesn’t say “excuse me” when he burps VERY loudly. But, he’s a greyt cuddler, so it’s all okay.

Steve and Michelle started attending monthly booths in Surry, almost immediately after adopting Koda. After their second Greyhound adoption, they became more and more involved with GPI. Steve took over the Regional VP position in 2007 and they’ve done amazing work ever since. Steve says being able to work alongside all the volunteers of the past, present and future has been, is, and will continue to be an amazing part of his position and something he doesn’t take lightly. In the end, it’s all about the amazing Greyhounds that they have a part in connecting with their new families.

“GPI was and always has been a source of support and knowledge. Without the Board of GPI and all the other volunteers out there we wouldn’t be where we are today!”

Although I’ve not met either of these greyt people personally, I owe a debt to Michelle. I recently did a road trip around western Canada and Michelle, through her emails, was an invaluable tour guide. She gave me a list of all the places I wouldn’t have seen otherwise. Thank you, Michelle.

GPI wants to thank both of you, Steve and Michelle, for all your hard work, your caring, and the dedication you show to supporting the rescue of these incredible creatures. Your work is very much appreciated. And some day I hope to meet both of you in person!!!!!!

Have Internet Access?
Join our Greyhound Pet, Inc. email/chat list.
To subscribe to the list just visit
www.greyhoundpetsinc.org/chat.html

Want more information? Just email Cathy Munro at
adopt.greyhounds@gmail.com

Got Bark Ideas?
Do you have something you would like to see in the Bark? Something you would like more info on, health, food, etc?
Please email Michelle at gpibark@shaw.ca
WASHINGTON (NORTH PUGET SOUND)
Regional VP - Marchet Anschell
Seattle - Nancy Lewis
206-706-9889
Seattle - Chris Nooney
206-228-8942
Seattle - Robin Reich
206 276 5181
West Seattle - Eileen Hamblin
206-390-7746
360-681-8614
Sequim, Port Angeles, Forks - Jeani Penn
360-460-0121
Port Townsend - Nancy Naslund
360-379-6755
Suquamish, Kingston, Poulsbo, Bainbridge Isl & Hansville - Peg Barker
360-598-4149
Seattle & Eastside - Turtle Humphres
206-938-2095

WASHINGTON (SOUTH PUGET SOUND)
Regional VP - Chris Nooney
206-228-8942
Federal Way - Mayetta Tiffany
253-946-5039

BRITISH COLUMBIA & ALBERTA
Canada Regional VP - Steve Waines
Home - 604-882-0432
Cell - 604-808-9337
Surrey - Carol-Ann Matthews
604-574-0530
North Vancouver/Vancouver - Roger & Lynn Smith
604 988 0277
Richmond/Delta - Judith Fleming
604-313-1607
Kelowna - Betty Loney
250-769-5090
Squamish - Karen Brumpton
604-898-5430
Langley/Central Fraser Valley - Steve Waines
Home - 604-882-0432
Cell - 604-808-9337
Abbotsford/East Fraser Valley - Jeff Bough
604-328-0115
The ‘Woofs’ of Wes ‘n Heff... By Judith Fleming

Wes: Hey Heff, how ya’ doin’ today buddy?
Heff: Great Bro’! Just slipped at the bottom of the stairs this morning. My speed was a bit too fast running to the front door. I ‘bit it’ pretty darn good but was up in a flash!
Wes: Heff! You gotta take it easy! Having an embolism doesn’t make you indestructible. You need to slow down a little!
Heff: Well, I keep forgetting because I feel fine. I get goin’ and then try to stop ... but my legs don’t seem to listen 100% anymore...
Wes: Heff, I never did really ask what happened a couple of months ago. I heard you yelp and saw MJ (Momma Judith) check out all your paws to make sure you were OK before she left for work. It didn’t seem as though anything happened. Did it?
Heff: I dunno. I remember that morning I did my normal craziness coming down the stairs, a few jump ups on my hind legs and played with you a bit. We went outside for a pee and then before MJ left, I did a big stretch and did that yelp you were talking about. Then, my leg felt funny. I couldn’t really put my weight on it. When MJ checked me out, I didn’t have any places that hurt but it just felt weird.
Wes: Yeah, I wish I knew how to use a ‘phone’ as I could have called MJ during the day to let her know that you hadn’t moved from your bed. But, boy, when she came home was she worried.
Heff: I know ... I tried to get up and let her know I was OK. But I couldn’t... She seemed calm about it ... and thank goodness she picked me up so I could get out to the bathroom. It was strange though, I couldn’t really sit to pee and I couldn’t stand. When I was lying there – I was a bit embarrassed because I did a #2 and couldn’t move away. MJ noticed and fixed that.
Wes: Then MJ took you away for a few days. What happened there?
Heff: We went to visit a Doctor and they checked me out. I then had another car ride to the ‘Emergency Clinic’ - I think is what I heard MJ say. There they hooked me up to machines, gave me food. Took some blood samples. MJ came in for some attention. So I looked at her and let her pet me. It was nice. She came by the next day and boy did I impress her! I walked into the visitation room (albeit with someone holding a belly band to keep me up). It was great to see her face. She was sooo happy! The Neurologist came in and talked to all of us. He called it an FCE (Fibrocartilaginous Embolism). It was like a ‘stroke’ he says. Likely my playfulness in the morning broke off some jelly-like material that is between my vertebrae and that blocked some blood supply to my spinal cord. The blood supply was blocked for long enough that I had difficulty walking. The overnight stay at the Emergency Clinic was to make sure I didn’t get any worse.
Wes: When you came back and we went for our first run a few weeks later, I was worried about ya’ buddy! When you took your first steps, it looked like you couldn’t get your butt off of the ground. Then, you slipped and did the roll. I thought you were gonna stop. But nope! You are one tough cookie and got up and kept trying to run. I think it was about 100 yards and it was like your body finally figured out how to fix it! You slowed down and did more of a prance.
Heff: It was fun to run! Lucky me! Plus, lucky me also got swimming lessons out of this! I love the water!! You should have seen how proud MJ was when she saw me doing figure 8’s in the pool. It felt kinda funny at first but I did feel like I was using some different muscles. They said it would help improve my gait. Whatever that is!??!
I just like swimming in the warm pool!
Wes: So Heff, what else were they talking about when you were at the Hospital?
Heff: Well, since we were away the week before (camping in a camper), they were concerned if my paralysis was because of a tick bite or because I slipped off some wood and into the water (I slipped like half a foot!) and the water was less than a foot deep. Unlikely! But they were investigating ANY possibility. One good thing was I had recently donated blood so they had a good panel of blood to compare against. Unfortunately (or fortunately) the MRI was broken so we didn’t get an MRI done. Having insurance surely must have made MJ happy so that she didn’t have to worry much about the cost of all of this. If I was to have had an MRI, it would have only cost MJ 10% of the full cost. All in all, it was an adventure. I walk a bit funnier now and when I go pee, sometimes my butt drops a bit. That’s ok though, cause you and MJ love me! Thanks Wes! You have my back!
Wes: I love ya Bud!
I was delighted to visit Greyhound Pets, Inc. the beginning of October. It was my first time to witness a group of people coming together to give loving expert care to the retired racers. I was sincerely touched by witnessing the non-profit philosophy truly put in to practice. I can only hope that one day ‘Flying Irish Greyhounds’ will have such a team in Ireland.

In this article I would like to cover the most common questions we are asked about ‘Flying Irish Greyhounds’ (FIG).

Why rehome Irish greyhounds (FIG’s) to the US & Canada? First, the majority of Irish greyhounds are rehomed to Europe, mainly Germany & Italy. In time this source of adoptions may become saturated. Secondly, many American racetracks have closed creating a little space for US adoption groups to accept greyhounds from other countries. As well, the Irish public are only beginning to appreciate that ‘retired greyhounds make the best pets’. Presently, very few greyhounds are adopted within Ireland.

How do the FIG’s get to GPI? To arrive at GPI, the greyhounds first travel 3 to 4 hours by van to the ferry. The ferry takes them overnight to Wales. Then two volunteers from HOPE Rescue drive through the night from Wales to London Gatwick airport for the following morning. Luckily, the FIG’s are able to sleep through the night. Finally, they board a 9 hour flight to Vancouver. This entire journey is made possible by volunteers from Ireland, Wales, London, Vancouver and GPI. They assemble & disassemble & transport & store the airline crates, feed, walk, water, cuddle & reassure the dogs and finally, they settle the FIG greyhounds in to their new home at Greyhound Pets, Inc.

What is their racing life like in Ireland? In Ireland, most of the greyhounds live in kennels at the owner’s home. All litters are tattooed and registered between 8 & 12 weeks. The dogs typically start racing at about 18 months old. They can become a brood mom at 2 or 3 years of age until 8 years of age (limit of 6 litters). They sleep 2 or 3 together in a kennel, race once a week & retire at 5 or 6 years of age.

Much of FIG’s funding comes from a trust fund called the Retired Greyhound Trust of Ireland. This trust fund was created by the Irish Greyhound Board and Irish Greyhound Owners & Breeders to help provide homes for the retired Irish greyhounds.

‘Flying Irish Greyhounds’ would also like to announce plans to hold a Greyhound Irish Gathering (GIG) in 2015. All GPI volunteers and adopters are warmly invited to attend. The GIG will involve lectures & workshops, visits to various kennels and of course a bit of Irish culture.
Swimming with your Greyhound  By: Kendall De Menech, owner of K9H2O

Look at these dogs!

Long thin limbs, muscular thighs, deep chests and tiny waist. Amazing athletes by design! These are the most incredible running dogs on Earth. They can reach top speeds in seconds and are known to have a prey drive compared to few other breeds. But there is a myth out there in the interspace. The myth is: they cannot swim.

In the competitive human world of aquatics and racing Olympic style swimmers, the ideal body type is tall, long, muscular and flexible. Endurance is built through long hours of training. Diet is paramount. Drive is huge and body fat is minimal. Transfer that to the dog world and we look for many of the same things. Light of coat, strong will, long muscular legs and athletic endurance.

Somewhere along the path the Greyhound missed out on the labeling. It is thought by some that the long fine legs and angular paws of the dog could not propel the animal efficiently through the water. Someone came up with the concept that there was not enough body fat in a little Greyhound to keep it afloat and that the deep chest conflicted with buoyancy. Another rumor arose stating the large muscle mass in a fit Greyhound would contribute to a gravity sinking effect.

In fact if one were to study this great dog from an aquatic perspective they would probably come up with this scenario:

The long needle nosed snout is designed to pull in air and maximize collection of oxygen and expulsion of CO2 with incredible efficiency. The small forehead is streamlined and when swimming, the dog will lay its chin in the water and turn the ears down to create an efficient wind resistant prow. Those lovely flop ears prevent water from entering the ear canals. The neck will be extended, allowing the head to lay low in the water. The trachea becomes horizontal, remaining open to welcoming efficient air exchange. The lungs are markedly larger than most dogs for their size, again sup to welcoming efficient air exchange. The lungs are vastly larger than most dogs for their size, again supporting air exchange and creating a huge buoyancy tank for the body. The rib cage is deep, narrow and vertical, acting as a rudder in the water and reducing resistance. The healthy heart can jump from 80 beats per minute to over 200 beats in just seconds of intense exercise. Extra large blood vessels pump oxygenated blood at a remarkable speed. Muscles are tuned to accept O2 and quickly expel CO2 minimizing the debilitating effects of lactic acid build up. The joints are, in a healthy dog, flexible and agile. The waist tucks up tight allowing water to be pushed backward by the front legs to create a Bernoulli lift through the belly and then flow on as a current back to the back legs which power the body on with a doubling thrust. The extra long thin tail acts as a balance pole and may in fact create a small current itself if wagged in the water as part of the swimming process. And then there are the feet. Webbed to support the dog as it runs on sand, they now work like Labrador paws and the webbing between the articulated toes grabs and pushes the dog forward. The famous hinge of the spine flexes and extends the four legs so the overall stride in the water is longer and more powerful than many breeds can achieve.

So why is there a rumor that Greyhounds cannot swim. Part is due to the life style of the domestic (versus competitive racing) dog. Greyhounds raised as pets tend to be couch potatoes. Pet Greyhounds, as they are known, are loved for their quiet majestic demeanor. Even adopted Greyhounds, off the track, soon learn that life is good as a pet. Some love to get out and run free but that couch is such a joy to come home to. Unfortunately, a negative side effect is weight gain and loss of the athletic supremacy.

Greyhounds are also sometimes known as drama queens. New things can be very intimidating. Even entering a new room or walking down a ramp into a pool can be overwhelming. The dog may feel a shock effect and may choose to zone out. It is known for some Greyhounds to halt, shiver and be fearful to move forward in new environments. Gums may go bluish and breathing becomes shallow. Correctly identifying this as a breed issue, a trained handler can work through it with the dog and achieve success.

The final issue is prey drive. Some Greyhounds are overloaded with it and that is what makes them successful racers and hunters. Its the thrill of the chase, the zero to 100 speed and the desire to run until it drops that makes the dog so beautiful to watch. Others of the breed may not employ that gene. A non-prey drive dog is harder to swim. They tend to hang in the water and not engage swimming, or they may thrash. Again a trained handler using valuable tools such as a life jacket or creative toys can try stimulate the dog to embrace the new sport and hopefully awaken the swimming gene.

We all know that swimming is a valuable aid to humans. It is in many cases the chosen method of recovery by physiotherapists. The lack of gravity and the valuable use of resistance are beneficial in recovery for many forms of injury and illness in people. Greyhounds, who often suffer from broken toes, obesity, spinal and joint issues can be enrolled in canine aqua therapy sessions to aid their recovery. With train handlers and a willingness by veterinarians and owners to help the dog recover and gain a healthier lifestyle for the length of its natural life, Greyhounds can be successful swimmers.
Kendall De Menech is the owner of K9H2O, the largest and longest running indoor pool for urban animals in BC, located in Abbotsford, BC. Over the course of 14 years they have swum many dogs including greyhounds.

For more information contact www.k9h2o.com

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206-499-4007 ~ annmariegreys@gmail.com ~ www.greyhoundsnw.com
The Bark

~ Returning Your Greyhound.

Please remember, if for any reason you cannot or do not want to keep your greyhound, he/she MUST be returned to Greyhound Pets, Inc. (part of the Adoption Contract you signed). Finding a loving greyhound home for your greyhound should be handled by someone who understands the needs of these great animals. Contact us at 877-468-7681 to make arrangements.

~ Have you moved? Do we have your current phone and e-mail addresses as well as physical and mailing addresses?

Please make sure that GPI has your current physical, mailing and e-mail addresses, and your home and cell phone numbers. E-mail Moira at fastpaws@centurytel.net or contact her through the GPI PO Box. Thanks for helping keep GPI’s database current.

~ Is your Greyhound wearing a collar and identification tags?

Please take a moment to make sure your greyhound is wearing a collar with identification tags. Please make sure your greyhound has a GPI tag on his collar. If your greyhound is missing a GPI tag, please call 877-468-7681 or write us at:

Greyhound Pets, Inc.
New Tags
PO Box 891
Woodinville, WA 98072
We will gladly send you a new GPI tag.

~ Why is a collar and GPI tag important?

If your greyhound gets lost, the toll free number can be called and we can help get your dog back to you faster. Plus, if you’ve moved and haven’t updated your phone/address tag, then GPI’s toll free number could be the only way your greyhound is safely returned to you. Without a collar and ID tags, it is much harder to locate and reunite you. Please keep your dog’s tags current and update GPI about any phone or address changes.

If you don’t like the sound of the tags jingling, try a tag bag, an elastic band around the tags, or some of the rubber bumpers for keys around each tag. But please do not leave your dog without a collar and tags. Your dog’s life may depend upon those tags.

All current GPI dogs are microchipped and registered to GPI, as a backup safety net, but if found, someone has to get the dog to a place that can read the microchip before we can try and reunite you and your dog.

Sponsor A Greyhound

The next best thing

If you can’t adopt a greyhound you may find that sponsoring a greyhound through Greyhound Pets, Inc. will be your next best rewarding experience. It costs GPI more than the adoption donation of $300 to get most dogs ready for adoption. Some greyhounds wind up staying in foster or kennel care for longer than others for any number of reasons. These greyhounds incur expenses for things like food, vet care, prescriptions and more. At any given time, we have a number of greyhounds who are considered “Special Needs” who have higher than normal care costs - extra vet care, special foods for allergies, etc.

You can help by donating $10, $15, $25 or more to sponsor one of the many greyhounds in need through GPI.

To start the sponsorship process, send an email to Robin James, our Treasurer, at robin@artisteegallery.com. Let Robin know which dog you’re interested in sponsoring and organize payment.

You can mail a check or money order to PO Box 891, Woodinville, WA 98072, you can call Robin at 425-481-3501 and give her your credit card info, or you can donate online through the Network For Good button on our website - www.greyhoundpetsinc.org. Your name will then be added below the dogs info as his/her sponsor.

Greyhound Pets, Inc. is a volunteer organization which depends on your gifts. Listed below are some of the items your donation can purchase for the adoptable dogs of GPI.

~ Muzzle for one kennel dog $10
~ Food for one dog for one month $20
~ Vaccines for one new dog $25
~ One folding table for the kennel $50
~ Running a tick test for a new dog $65
~ Sponsor a kennel run (per year) $500
~ Complete Vetting for a new dog $425

Donate $250, $500 or $1,000 to receive an engraved greyhound “leaf” on our gifting tree at the kennel.

Do you purchase items from Amazon.com?
Click on the Amazon.com link on our home page and GPI receives a referral fee donation for every dollar spent. www.greyhoundpetsinc.org

Do you know that Greyhound Pets, Inc. has a Facebook Page? Check it out – there is a link on our home page or just search for us on Facebook.

Are your gates and fence secure? Have you walked your fence recently to check that it is secure - no rotten boards, holes that a dog could escape through, missing boards, rusty wire, etc.? Are all gates securely padlocked (if possible) or secured with some kind of clip and/or automatic closing device?
~ What should I do if my Greyhound gets loose?
• Call the GPI toll free number IMMEDIATELY!! 877-468-7681 (enter us as a contact in your cell phone). We will get a search party organized, post it on our website and social media pages, and alert folks your dog is missing
• Take a squawker (available at the GPI Rootique) and your CELL PHONE with you when you start your search. If your home phone number is on your dog’s tags, make sure someone is available at that number as well in case a good Samaritan finds your pup.
• Have a Missing Dog flyer with your dog’s picture on your computer ready to print and post at a moment’s notice.
• For more tips on finding your lost dog go to www.greyhoundpetsinc.org/lostdog.html

~ Has your Greyhound passed on recently?
If you have had your Greyhound pass to the Rainbow Bridge, please contact Moira at fastpaws@centurytel.net or contact her through the GPI PO Box.

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4th Annual Greyt Walkathon 2014

Was a HUGE success and we thank all of those involved! We are looking forward to the 5th Annual Great Walkathon 2015
Are you on Social Media?

Are you on Social Media? If so, are you following GPI on their Social Media?

Did you know that Social Media double, triple and even quadruple our exposure? It allows Greyhound Pets, Inc to increase the awareness of this breed that we love so much! Simply by sharing, liking, commenting, pinning, retweeting our content you could be responsible for a person or persons learning more about GPI and the breed itself. By taking that simple action you could have helped educate someone and peak someones interest enough into coming to a booth or going to our website for more info. You could help one more of our dogs find their furever home! Pretty amazing huh?!

Our Facebook page is an awesome way to stay in touch with GPI, find out what is happening in your area. Is there a booth in your area that you would like to help with, a walk that you would like to join in? Our Facebook page announces these events and more! Are you curious as to what dogs have been adopted? That is all there too.

Greyhound Pets, Inc is on most Social Media along with many other websites that promote adoption. If you are on any of these Social Media platforms go there now and follow, like and share GPI’s Social Media!

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Holiday Safety for your Greyhound

This article will help you prepare your home for a safe and happy holiday season. Compiled from many online articles, it’s long, but a great reminder of all the little things we can do to keep our pets safe and happy during the holidays and all year long.

WEATHER RELATED ISSUES:

• When ice and snow are on the ground, be aware that your dogs pads will get cold FAST. Take them for shorter walks, or buy some booties to cover up those tootsies. (You may also get some interesting video footage for your files of the first time your dog wears them!) Booties will help not only with the cold, but to keep salt and chemicals off of your pet’s feet as well as prevent cuts from ice along your walking route. If pets lick salt and chemicals off their feet, they can become ill. If you’re not using booties, be sure to rinse your Greyhound’s feet off with cool water when you get home to remove any residue.
• Check your gates: buildup of snow or ice may prevent your gates from closing correctly. Please make sure your gates are closed and latched before letting your dog out in the yard.

SAFETY PROOFING A HOLIDAY HOME:

• Trees provide a great temptation for cats to climb and dogs to chew on, so holiday trees should be well secured to prevent accidents.
• Animals are attracted to bright, moving lights so candles should be kept on high shelves. Candles as well as fireplaces should be constantly supervised since embers, sparks and wax can injure pets.
• Other holiday products that can harm pets include snow globes (many of which contain harmful antifreeze) and artificial snow, which can cause reactions if inhaled.
• Holiday plants including ivy, holly, mistletoe, hibiscus, poinsettia, lilies and Christmas greens all have various levels of toxicity. Position these high off the ground to avoid dangerous ingestion mishaps.
• Pine needles, when ingested, can puncture holes in a pet’s intestine. So keep pet areas clear of pine needles.
• The extra cords and plugs of holiday lights and other fixtures can look like chew toys to pets. Tape down or cover cords to help avoid shocks, burns or other serious injuries. Unplug lights when you are not home.
• Dogs will often play with glass ornaments as if they were balls and serious oral lacerations can result. Sharp ornament hooks can also become imbedded in your pet’s mouth or esophagus. Place ornaments that are shiny, or could be swallowed or broken high up on your tree. Larger, less intriguing ornaments can go near the bottom.
• Decorating trees with food is asking for problems. Candy canes and gingerbread people can be as enticing to your dog as they are to children. We know of one diabetic dog who ran into some problems with regulating her disease because she was stealing candy canes off of the tree.
• Popcorn, raisin, or cranberry garlands are beautiful, but can cause an obstruction when eaten, requiring surgery.
• Because tree preservatives are often sugar-based (and inviting to dogs) and because the water stands so long, the water in the tree stand often harbors potentially harmful bacteria. Fertilizers, insecticides, or flame retardants that were used on the tree may also get into the water. Cover the stand with a tree skirt or use other means to prevent access to the water.
• Very important: do not put aspirin in the water (some folks do this thinking it will keep the tree or plant more vigorous). If a pet ingests the aspirin-laced water his health or even life can be at risk.
HOLIDAY TREATS:

- No table scraps for pets! Fatty meats, gravies and poultry skin can cause pancreatitis, gastritis, enteritis, colitis and other gastrointestinal problems. Bones put pets at risk for bowel obstruction or perforation and choking.
- No chocolate for four-legged friends. It contains theobromine, which is highly toxic to dogs and cats when eaten in even small quantities. Problems from ingestion range from diarrhea to seizures and death. Unsweetened baking chocolate and dark chocolate are the worst culprits, but all chocolate, fudge, and other candy should be placed out of your dog’s reach.
- Pets should celebrate with home-cooked dog and cat treats. Recipes are available on the Internet.
- Coffee, and tea contain dangerous components called xanthines, which cause nervous system or urinary system damage and heart muscle stimulation. Alcohol can cause serious intoxications in pets, and many dogs are attracted to it. Every year hundreds of dogs die after a single bout of alcohol consumption.
- Bones from fish, meat, or poultry can also cause problems if swallowed. Even small bones can splinter causing lacerations (tearing) throughout the intestinal tract. So, no matter how big or how little they are, be sure to keep bones (other than those that are specially sterilized and treated) away from your dog. American made chews, Kong toys, and raw knuckle bones would be better alternatives.
- Uncooked yeast dough can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines.
- Grapes and raisins contain an unknown toxin, which can damage the kidneys.
- Macadamia nuts contain an unknown toxin, which can affect the digestive and nervous systems and muscles of dogs.
- Remember, dogs have an exceptional sense of smell – juices on plastic or aluminum foil left on countertops are very tempting. If ingested, plastic or foil wrap (cellophane candy wrappers or food wrap) can cause choking or intestinal obstruction.
- Meat-soaked strings from rump roasts are also enticing. Ingestion can cause a surgical emergency called a ‘linear string foreign body’ in the intestines.
- Xylitol gum can make your dog very ill. Make sure all gum products are up and away from where your Greyhound can reach them.

PETS AND PARTIES:

- An influx of holiday guests may frighten or agitate animals, making them more prone to barking or even biting.
- Pets can easily slip out through an open door as guests come and go -- keep a steady eye on pets and be sure they are wearing current identification tags. Use baby gates if necessary.
- Tobacco products can be fatal to pets, if ingested. Signs of poisoning develop within 15 to 45 minutes and include excitement, salivation, vomiting, and diarrhea. Pets may develop seizures, collapse and die from cardiac arrest. Keep cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, nicotine gum and patches, and ashtrays out of the reach of pets. Empty ashtrays frequently since cigarette butts contain about 25% of the total nicotine in a cigarette.
- A quiet room, away from the commotion with water and food available can be a retreat for an over stimulated dog and help him be more comfortable.
- Cleaning products such as disinfectants get a lot of use during the holidays as we spiff up our homes for visitors. Remember, many of these products can be toxic to your pets.
- Holiday guests and other activity can be very stressful and even frightening to pets. It can also trigger illness and intestinal upset. Make sure pets have a safe place to retreat in your house. And make sure they are wearing current I.D. in case they escape out a door when guests come and go.
- Reduce stress by keeping feeding and exercise on a regular schedule.
- Always make time to care for your pets. Some folks get lax about walking their dogs, and a few resort to letting pets out on their own. This puts the animal in danger, while also leading to nuisance complaints and dog bite incidents. Don’t take a holiday from responsibly caring for your pets.
- When pets are stressed by holiday activity or during travel, they may require more water. Dogs typically pant more when they feel stressed. Keep fresh water available for them to drink.
- If you suspect that your pet has eaten something toxic, call your veterinarian and/or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center’s 24-hour emergency hotline at 1-888-4-ANI-HELP.
- Tell guests and remind household members to keep medication, toiletries and other potentially harmful items out of the dog’s reach - and NOT to feed the dog any unauthorized foods. Remember, fatty foods can make a pet extremely ill.
- Have healthy pet treats handy so that your guests can indulge your pet safely. And if you want to share holiday flavor with the family dog, add a bit of white turkey meat or defatted broth to her bowl.
- Never leave dogs and children alone together. Always have an experienced adult supervise, no matter how well behaved the dog is. Anything can happen, especially with kids.
- Keep a pet first aid kit accessible.
Thank you to our recent sponsors

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- In honor of Bizzy
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Kathy Kreyling
- In honor of Dr. Hannah visits for Jasmine, Ridge, & Erin
Margaret Vaughn
- Thank you for taking care of Brock
Melissa Miller
- In honor of Ivan Drago
Suzanne & Chuck Waldron
- In honor of Peter J. McCarrey
Ann Moody
- In memory of Imp Bella Imphal
Barbara Lui
- In memory of Imp
Bob & Yumi Burnett
- In memory of Kathy Dexter who loved all animals
Christina Nelson
- In memory of Professor Ferrell
Deanna Williamson
- In memory of my sweet Boy, Larry
Deborah Mildurm
- In memory of Allie
Heather Collins
- In memory of Zac & Moni
Laurie Erickson & the Derby Lane Babies
- In memory of Arnie Erickson
Monica Buhlman
- In memory of Carly
Susan Mobley
- In memory of a very special Angel

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Susan Lawrence - For Inch
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Suzette Ashby
Sylvia Watson
Tambie Angel
Tanya Bacon
Tanya Bowen
Tanya Jarrett
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Wendy Koob

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Thank you so much for your gift to the GPI
dogs!!! They thank you very much!
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**Rainbow Bridge Memorial ~ We will miss them**

Notices Received Through November 10th, 2014

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<td>Acme Nightmare</td>
<td>Knight</td>
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<td>JJ’s Windy Wilma</td>
<td>Wilma</td>
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<td>4641</td>
<td>Pepto Desire</td>
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**Share Your Memories**

Share your memories of your beloved pup -- Submit a memorial write-up and a few pictures to our web editor and she will put up a Rainbow Bridge tribute to your pup on our website. You can reach Cathy Munro, our web editor, at adopt.greyhounds@gmail.com
The Kennel Needs You
Would you like to donate some goodies to the kennel? Here is a list of things the kennel needs to keep our newest pups warm & healthy:

Kirkland Dog Biscuits
Kirkland Lamb and Rice Kibble
Natural Balance Potato and Duck Kibble
Natural Balance Fish & Sweet Potato Kibble
Bleach
13-Gallon trash bags with ties
Paper Towels
Non-stuffed Blankets
Blankets and quilts
Stamps (Forever)
Glucosamine
Fish Oil Capsules
Or go to GPI’s Amazon Wishlist through the link on our home page.

If you can help with any of these items, please contact Moira Corrigan at 206-718-0475 or fastpaws@centurytel.net

The Greyhounds Thank You!

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~ Pg 2 - Who We are
~ Pg 4 - The ‘Woofs’ of Wes ‘n Heff
~ Pg 5 - Irish Greyhounds
~ Pg 6 - 7 - Swimming with your Greyhound