

**Greyhounds Pets of America-Northern California (GPA-NC) /  
Greyhound Adoption California (GACA)  
Newsletter, Spring 2012**

**New Adoptions**

One definition of Spring is a time of transition between Winter and Summer. In keeping with the spirit of the season, it's fitting to report that the following greyhounds are passing from racing life into a life of leisure.

Beautiful \*Ella\* joined the family of Kimberly Williams and Michael Lane.

Handsome \*Baja\* was adopted by vet tech Tina Lozano.

\*Bones\* is enjoying retired life with Susan McLucas and Alex.

\*Ridley\* is the new male in Andrea Mocabee's life.

After spending nine months as a foster, \*Stella\* officially became a member of the Shofstahl family and big sister to \*Jack\*.

Special thanks to all of our adopters for helping their greyhounds make the transition from racer to couch potato!



*Rosie finds her bliss in the surf. Picture courtesy of Nicola Mohr.*

## Special Thanks

Show & Tell season kicked-off with the San Juan Bautista Arts and Craft Festival, April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the generous donation of booth space by Williams, Ltd. (Reno, NV), the festival's organizer, we once again were able to spend the weekend spreading the word about greyhound adoption. And, we've already received adoptions applications from this event.

We appreciate our wonderful volunteers and their greyhounds for supporting this event, including:

- Antje and Gary Cornick and \*Jami\*
- The Dunnes, with \*Lilly\*
- Michael and Rose Epting, with \*Finnian\* and \*Allegra\*
- Patrick Friel, with \*Dasani\* and \*Patti\*
- The Goldfields, with \*Liberty\*
- Camille Gordon, with \*Lilly\*
- Rachel and Alexander Hobbs, with \*Radar\*
- The Lancaster family, with \*Holly\*
- Lewis and Cindy Laptalo, with \*Abby\*
- The Lee family, with \*Ivy\*
- Barbara and Sarah Powell, with \*Roxy\*
- Peggy Richardson, with \*Phoenix\* and \*Junie\*
- The Shofstahls, with \*Jack\* and \*Stella\*
- Louis and Kathy Vasquez

Special thanks to the Lancasters for recruiting and scheduling volunteers and for the set-up and tear-down of our booth. And special thanks to Patrick Friel (\*Dasani\* and \*Patti\*) and Susan McLucas and Alex with \*Bones\* who manned the monthly Show and Tell at Petco in San Jose.



*Volunteer Alexander shows off beautiful 11.5-year-old Allegra.  
Picture courtesy of Rachel Hobbs.*

## Available Greyhounds

\*Shady\* is 7 years old, 65 lbs, and a beautiful white and brindle female. She loves to be petted and to go to the dog park. She is definitely the boss of the house and will steal any available food. She will chase cats when outside, so cannot be trusted with them. She is great on walks. She does fine when left alone during the day with her adopted brother.



*Shady (aka Shadeddragonlady)*

\*Hermes\* is a 7.5-year-old, 70-lb, brindle male. He is described as quiet, calm, and affectionate. He is also great on walks and does fine when left alone during the day with his adopted sister. He is probably best with older children, as he has been known to bark at 3-year-olds who are being a bit too rowdy around his bed. He cannot be trusted with cats.

\*Suede\* is 11 years of age and a brindle female. She tested cat-safe when she left the track, but is currently not living with any cats (although she has lived successfully with a small dog). She is described as being a good girl, very strong willed and bossy, and a love.

Might you be willing to open your heart and your home to one of these greyhounds?

## Parasite Control

As greyhound owners, we are all aware of the importance of protecting our dogs from parasites — those pesky organisms that live in or on our greyhounds (their host) and benefit by deriving nutrients at our greyhound's expense. Parasites can cause a multitude of problems. For example, flea infestations can cause problems ranging from dermatitis, to hair loss, to tapeworm infection (tapeworms can be transmitted by flea bites).

Fortunately, the pharmaceutical companies have responded to the need to prevent parasitic infections in our canine companions. This is big business for them. For example, pharmaceutical company Bayer reported that Advantage™ for canines was their 10<sup>th</sup> best selling product of 2011, with sales of \$546 million. By comparison, sales of their well-known Aspirin™ for humans were only a little better at \$572 million.

Large market opportunities mean that there are lots of choices for consumers. Consumers have the choice of topical or oral medications and can choose products with a variety of active ingredients. Topical medications are easy to use and readily available from the local pet store. A topical medication is spread over a greyhound's body by a process called translocation. When applied, the product is gradually dispersed (over ~24 hours) by the pet's natural oils, collecting in the oil glands in the skin. Then, the product is continuously released to the skin and hair over the course of a month to provide protection against pests. For best effectiveness, the product should not be applied immediately after an animal has had a bath. One disadvantage of a topical medication is that it can be messy to apply. Because the product remains on the skin surface until it is adsorbed, transfer by contact can cause small children to be exposed to the product and can cause staining to carpets and furniture.

Oral medications offer the advantages of being safe to use, without the mess associated with topical medications. Oral medications can be beneficial for dogs that swim or who have skin conditions that might be irritated by use of topical medications. Oral medications typically require a prescription from a veterinarian. A disadvantage of an oral medication is that, even though the manufacturer may claim that a tablet is flavored and chewable, many dogs do not like the taste. For example, while our dogs think that their monthly Heartgard® dose is a highly-desired treat, it takes a lot of peanut butter or hotdog pieces to convince them to consume a dose of Comfortis®.

In addition to considering the choice of oral versus topical medication, different preventatives contain different active ingredients. Therefore, it's important to understand exactly what those ingredients do. For example, Fipronil is toxic to insects — disrupting the normal function of their central nervous systems. Methoprene is an insect growth regulator, which means that rather than killing pests through direct toxicity (as Fipronil does), Methoprene interferes with an insect's life cycle and prevents it from reaching maturity or reproducing. Thus, a preventative containing Fipronil will kill only adult fleas. However, a preventative with Fipronil and Methoprene will, in addition to killing adult fleas, take care of flea eggs and larvae.

Functions of active ingredients used in preventative medications.

<b>Mode of Action</b>	<b>Examples of Active Ingredients</b>
Insect neurotoxin	Fipronil, Imidacloprid, Permethrin
Broad-spectrum endectocide	Ivermectin, Milbemycin oxime, Moxidectin, Selamectin
Insecticide (mites and ticks)	Amitraz, Spinosad
Insect growth regulator	Lufenuron, Methoprene, Pyriproxyfen
Neuromuscular blocking agent (causes parasites to lose their grip on intestinal walls of host)	Pyrantel

The table below summarizes many of the choices available to consumers. In addition to preventing flea and heartworm infections, many of today's preventatives also act on other parasites. When it comes to parasite control, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, as the old saying goes. The good news is that there are many effective preventative medications on the market and adopters have many choices. The best advice is to talk to your veterinarian to make sure that you understand how each product works and let him/her suggest the products that are right for your greyhound. After all, a pest-free greyhound is a happy greyhound.

A selection of commercially-available parasite preventatives.

Product	Fleas	Ticks	Hookworm	Roundworm	Whipworm	Heartworm	Ear Mites	Cost per dose (\$)	Active Ingredients	Comments
<b>Advantage® II</b> (Bayer HealthCare AG)	X							10	Imidacloprid & Pyriproxyfen	Applied topically each month; Kills all flea stages; Also kills chewing lice
<b>Advantage® Multi</b> (Bayer HealthCare AG)	X		X	X	X	X		17	Imidacloprid & Moxidectin	Applied topically each month
<b>Advantix® II</b> (Bayer HealthCare AG)	X	X						12	Imidacloprid, Permethrin, & Pyriproxyfen	Applied topically each month; Also kills chewing lice and mosquitoes
<b>Certifect®</b> (Merial)	X	X					X	17	Fipronil, Methoprene, & Amitraz	Applied topically each month; Amitraz provides faster, more effective tick-killing ability
<b>Comfortis®</b> (Elanco)	X									Monthly, chewable tablet
<b>Frontline® Plus</b> (Merial)	X	X					X	13	Fipronil & Methoprene	Applied topically each month; Kills adult fleas, flea eggs and larvae
<b>Frontline® Top Spot</b> (Merial)	X	X					X	---	Fipronil	Applied topically each month; Kills adult fleas only
<b>Heartgard®</b> (Merial)						X		8	Ivermectin	Monthly, chewable tablet; Eliminates tissues stage of heartworm larvae
<b>Heartgard® Plus</b> (Merial)			X	X		X		8	Ivermectin & Pyrantel	Monthly, chewable tablet; Eliminates tissues stage of heartworm larvae
<b>Interceptor®</b> (Novartis)			X	X	X	X		9	Milbemycin oxime	Monthly, chewable tablet
<b>Revolution®</b> (Pfizer)	X					X	X	16	Selamectin	Applied topically each month; Sometimes used to treat & control sarcoptic mange & control tick infestations
<b>Sentinel®</b> (Novartis)	X		X	X	X	X		16	Milbemycin oxime & Lufenuron	Monthly, chewable tablet; Kills flea eggs & larvae
<b>Trifexis®</b> (Dow Agro Sciences LLC)	X		X	X	X	X		17	Spinosad & Milbemycin oxime	Monthly, chewable tablet

Notes: Information for commercially-available parasite control products, compiled from vendors' websites.  
Prices based on an appropriately-sized-for-a-greyhound 6-pack from [www.1800petmeds.com](http://www.1800petmeds.com).



*Life at Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital. "Regulars" Penny, Shadow and Rosie introduce new boarder Brady to their Mom (Dr. Mohr) and a favorite caretaker Jamie. Picture courtesy of Nicola Mohr.*

## **Good Reads**

Those of you with dogs retired from the Caliente track in Mexico know that the greyhounds first passed through the hands of the *Fast Friends* greyhound adoption group. *Fast Friends*, with President Joyce McRorie, was recently featured in an internet video showing the journey of the greyhounds from track to couch. Watch the video at:

<http://univisionnews.tumblr.com/post/21436844132/tijuana-racing-grayhound-caliente>.

## **Greyhound Pets of America and Other News**

Halfway Home Greyhound Adoption Abilene Gathering will be held June 7–10 in Abilene, KS. It will be an opportunity to visit the Greyhound Hall of Fame and some greyhound farms. For more details, visit <http://www.halfwayhomegreyhounds.com/gathering.html>.

The Atlanta Chapter of GPA will be hosting the Greyhound Adoption Conference in Atlanta, GA, June 15–17, 2012.

For greyhound news at the National level, see <http://www.greyhoundpets.org/>.

## **GACA Events**

Please mark your calendars. We hope that you can participate in the following show and tell events – it's always fun to gather with other greyhound adopters and to encourage others to adopt greyhounds.

- San Juan Bautista Arts and Crafts Festival and Rib Cook-Off, San Juan Bautista, CA, May 19–20, 2012
- Naval Postgraduate School CONCERT ON THE LAWN, Monterey, CA, May 28, 2012, 10 am – 3 pm
- Woof to Woof, Skypark Soccer Complex, Scotts Valley, CA , June 2, 2012
- Soquel Spring Dog Festival, June 24, 2012, 10 am – 2 pm
- Bark in the Park, Williams Street Park, San Jose, CA, September 15, 2012

Please check our website ([www.greyhoundadoptioncalifornia.com/events](http://www.greyhoundadoptioncalifornia.com/events)) for upcoming and recurring events, including:

- 1st Saturday of the month show & tell at a San Jose Petco at Blossom Hill
- 2nd Saturday of the month show & tell at a San Jose Petco at Meridian and Branham
- 3rd Sunday of the month greyhound walk in Pleasanton Sports Park

Do you know of any events that would be good show & tell opportunities? Are you interested in hosting a show & tell at your local pet store? If so, please let us know and we would be happy to help you get started.

## **Greyhound Trivia**

As the main issue of the newsletter was parasite control, we felt it only fitting that this quarter's trivia be devoted to the most common parasite to plague our dogs. While pesky, fleas are quite amazing creatures. Did you know?

- A female flea can lay 50 eggs per day and 2000 eggs in her lifetime (which is why a single flea can lead to an infestation of 10,000 fleas).
- Flea eggs in a house can hatch into larvae in 1 day.
- Larvae form pupae, a cocoon in which adult fleas form. Pupae may remain viable for several months, which explain why flea infestations are so difficult to manage.
- Warmth or carbon dioxide from a passing dog (or other warm-blooded creature) signals the pupa to hatch and the flea to jump onto the dog for a meal of blood.



- According to Wikipedia, the flea is one of the best jumpers of all known animals (relative to body size) – a flea can jump ~7 inches vertically and ~13 inches horizontally (around 200 times its own body length).

### **Get Involved!**

We are always looking for volunteers. Please contact us at [2greys@mindspring.com](mailto:2greys@mindspring.com) if you would like to help us in our mission to find loving homes for greyhounds. We are always looking for greyhound foster parents, newsletter writers, people who are willing to transport dogs, home visit volunteers etc. Whatever your talent or passion, we welcome your help.

### **Newsletter Contributors**

Carolyn Koester



*Solvang Greyhound Gathering, February 2012. Contributed by Rachel Hobbs.*