

**Greyhounds Pets of America-Northern California (GPA-NC) /
Greyhound Adoption California (GACA)
Newsletter, Spring 2014**

New Adoptions

We thank all of you who have given our wonderful greyhound friends a forever home. Recently, the following greyhounds are enjoying their permanent retirements.

Trey's Ghost was adopted by the Marvin Manwarren.

Mega Talapin was adopted by June Osofsky.

Kathy Heggum is proud mom to *Wild JumpingJack*.

WW Kool Headed is now a member of the Smith family.

Mega Odd, aka Otto, is happy at home with the Schecklas.

Hulk Hogan was adopted by the Piplicks.

The Dunmores welcomed *IndianaBones* into their family. Special thanks to Susan McLucas and *Bones* for fostering this sweet girl prior to her adoption.

Looking for Good Homes



Ivy is a four year old Brindle greyhound with lots of love to give. She is curious about everything and will follow you around and nudge you to get attention. She loves her treats and meals and shows it with the happy dance she does with her bouncing on her front paws. Might you or someone you know be willing to give her a good home? If so, please let us know.

Daisy is a 5-year-old fawn female who can live with cats. She is also looking for a home.

Special Thanks

Our outdoor Show & Tell season started with the March Arts and Crafts Festival in San Juan Bautista. Despite the threat of rain showers, our dedicated volunteers were not deterred from their mission of spreading the word about greyhound adoption.

We would like to thank the following volunteers for their help with this event:



Special thanks to Sherrlyn for coordinating volunteers, and, with the help of Tom, Cyndi, and Lew, for setting up the booth.

Bill & Jeanette Davis, with *Sandy* & *Daddy*
Richard & Delene Dunne, with *Lilly*
Tom & Sherrlyn Lancaster, with *Holly* & *Turner*
Cyndi & Lew Laptalo, with *Abby*
Julia Lily, with *Maggie*
Carol O'Neal, with *Pappy* & *Rogue*
Peggy Richardson, with *Junie* & *Phoenix*
Jim & Carolyn Shofstahl, with *Jack* & *Stella*
Celeste & Dave Smith, with *Angel* & *Lisette*
Kimberly Williams & Mike Lane, with *Winnie* & *Ella*

And, special thanks to Williams Ltd. for continuing to provide us booth space at a fabulous venue and an audience of 40,000 people.

And, special thanks to all of our volunteers who staff our recurring Petco events. The gift of your time is greatly appreciated.

Greyhound Pets of America and Other News

The 2014 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference was held June 20-22, 2014, in Pittsburgh, PA. Jim Shofstahl, our local chapter president as well as the president of GPA National, was in attendance. GPA continues to be a healthy organization of over forty chapters across the United States. For a list of GPA members, see <http://www.greyhoundpets.org/chapters.php>.

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

Dogs Respond to Earth's Magnetic Field

We are all so very familiar with the circular dance that our greyhounds do before they find just the right position to do “their business”. A group led by Hynek Burda of the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany), suggested a partial explanation for this behavior. Burda and coworkers observed the off-leash defecation (1,893 observations) of 70 dogs and sorted the data according to the geomagnetic conditions prevailing during the respective observation periods. They concluded that dogs prefer to excrete with their bodies being aligned along the North-South axis under calm magnetic field conditions. This is the first study that shows that dogs are sensitive to the Earth's magnetic field.

Why might dogs need the ability to sense the Earth's magnetic field? The answer is not clear, but the authors speculate that nature may have given our canine friends this ability to as a way to calibrate a map of their territories (the observation that dogs tend to not care about body alignment when the magnetic field is disturbed suggests that they know when conditions exist that will not provide a proper calibration).

Always being the sceptic, I know that my dogs often don't follow magnetic North when pooping and peeing. This is because other factors – being constrained on-leash, taking cues from their owners, being influenced by nearby vertical surfaces, and road noise – can also influence a dog's behavior. After reading this article, I will be paying more attention to my dogs' behaviors. It certainly is food for thought and makes me appreciate the wonderful abilities of my canine companions.

For more information, a link to the publication can be found at:
<http://www.frontiersinzoology.com/content/10/1/80/abstract#>

Interesting Websites

If you are looking for good information about dogs and kids, the website of Colleen Pelar, CPDT-KA, CDBC, has a wealth of information. Colleen brings 20 years of experience helping parents understand potential issues and problem areas between canines and kids. While her website does not contain the wealth of information of her books (we encourage you to read “Living with Kids and Dogs”), it does provide a quick summary of stress signs that dogs exhibit, a guide to dog bite prevention, and advice about making proper introductions to dogs and how to deal with children that are fearful of dogs.

See: <http://www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com/index.html>

GACA Events

Our group continues to be active in local show and tells. We hope that you can participate in the following events (or, start your own). It's always fun to gather with other greyhound adopters and to encourage others to adopt greyhounds.

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

- 1st Saturday of the month show & tell at the San Jose Petco at Blossom Hill
- 2nd Saturday of the month show & tell at the San Jose Petco at Meridian and Branham
- 3rd Saturday of the month show & tell at San Jose Unleashed by Petco on Lincoln Avenue
- 3rd Saturday of the month show & tell at Livermore Petco on First Street
- 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

According to *The Greyhound Review*, the official publication of the National Greyhound Association (Jan/Feb 2014 edition), 2013 was a good year to be a greyhound. Greyhound firsts included:

- The first greyhound to earn almost a quarter of a million dollars in a career. *SH Avatar* earned his retirement by grossing over \$740,000 in his career. The previous record (\$679,000 earned in a career) was held by *Flying Stanley*, who stood unbeaten for almost five years.
- The fastest greyhound currently racing is *Rob Gronkowski*, who set a new speed record at Palm Beach Kennel Club (Florida), which has been in operation since 1932. He completed their 1635-foot oval circuit in 29.02 seconds (or, an average speed of 38.4 miles per hour). Wow!

Get Involved!

Got love for greyhounds? Want to contribute to our mission to find loving homes for greyhounds? If so, please contact us at 2greys@mindspring.com. 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.