

**Greyhounds Pets of America-Northern California (GPA-NC) /
Greyhound Adoption California (GACA)
Newsletter, Summer 2011**

Thanks to our volunteers for hosting a successful booth at San Juan Bautista's Arts and Craft Festival, April 2011.

A greyt big thanks to the following volunteers:

Antje and Shannon Cornick
Richard and Delene Dunne
Patrick Friel
Rachel and Alexander Hobbs
Corinna & Scott McClure
Yvonne and Kevin Oberman
Celeste and Dave Smith

Special thanks to Sherrlyn, Thomas,
and Michael Lancaster for booth
organization and set-up.



We also thank the many volunteers who continue to share the news about greyhound adoption and helped with the following events:

- C-DOG Spring Dog Festival, May 15, 2011, in Soquel.
- Arts & Crafts Festival & Rib Cook-Off, May 21 and 22, 2011, San Juan Bautista.
- Concert on the Lawn at the Naval Postgraduate School, May 31, 2011, Monterey.

New Adoptions

Despite the economic climate, thankfully there continue to be people willing to open their homes and their hearts to retired greyhounds. Here, we welcome our newest class of retirees.

Bill and Andrea Lee adopted *Ivy*.

Steph was adopted by Dori Kirkland.

The Eptings welcomed ten-year-old *Allegra* into their family. She joins siblings *Finnian* and *Becca*. We'd like to give a special thanks to the crew at Tassajara Veterinary Clinic in Danville for placing her on meds to stabilize her heart condition so that they could successfully perform a dental to remove five rotten teeth.

The Muths adopted ten-year-old *Logan*, who joins younger sibling *Rory*. Special thanks for giving a senior greyhound a loving home.

The Hobbs family adopted *Radar*.

Chanel is now home with the Bibens family.

Abby was adopted by the Laptalos, thanks to a successful meeting at San Juan Bautista.

Follywood, a dog who loves to smile and dance, was adopted by Irene Kane and David Ricci.

Mary was welcomed into the Mabens household.

Vanú was adopted by Jesus Morales.

The *Smolgovsky* family had a difficult time picking between two greyhounds, so decided to adopt both *Episode* (aka "Dude") and *Xander*.

Thanks to all for giving these retired racers a good home!



Allegra walks the bases of the Oakland Coliseum in support of the Oakland A's at their recent "Dog Night"

GACA Events

Please check our website (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
- Bark in the Park, 10AM – 5PM on September 17th, Williams Street Park, San Jose

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

Annual Greyhound Picnic



Pictures courtesy of Yvonne Oberman

Despite the rain, our annual picnic was held on October 24, 2010, at the Amador Community Center in Pleasanton, CA. The venue was ideal, with a fenced-in area for the dogs and a building to keep everybody dry. Thanks to all who helped with and participated in this event, which is our major fundraiser for the year.

This year's picnic will again be held (rain or shine) at the Amador Community Center. The date for this year's event is **Saturday, September 24, 2011**. So, mark your calendars – we hope to see you there!

Please let us know if you'd like to volunteer to help. We can always use donations of silent auction items to raise money to support the greyhounds and volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up.

Greyhound Pets of America News

Congratulations to Jim Shofstahl, who, as of April 1, is the President of our national organization. Jim takes over for Rory Goree, who served as GPA President for the last ten years and will be moving on to tackle international issues of greyhound welfare.

We can expect to will become more informed about greyhound events at the National level.

For example, did you know that Rachael Ray, Food Network star, founder of *Rachael's Rescue*, and creator of Nutrish premium pet food products, recently donated \$25,000 to Greyhound Pets of America?

Dennis Tyler, of Greyhound Pets of America Central Florida, was honored for his efforts in greyhound adoption as one of *People Magazine's* "Heroes Among Us", featured in the August 1, 2011 issue. Dennis and his wife Claire have helped find homes for 7,000 greyhounds, primarily by transporting greyhounds to other adoption groups.

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

Differential Reinforcement Training*

Contributed by Kate Sitter

Differential Reinforcement training is a combination of two behavioral training elements — reinforcement and extinction. Reinforcement is a consequence that your dog experiences following a behavior they exhibit. For example, you give the command "down" and then treat your dog. This is a reinforcement of the behavior "down" and, based on the treat (i.e. reward), your dog is likely to go "down" when you give the command again. Extinction involves doing nothing, saying nothing, and walking away when your dog exhibits an unwanted behavior.

Differential reinforcement works through the following steps:

1. Identify the behavior you want to replace and use extinction
2. Define a desirable behavior to replace that unwanted behavior
3. Reinforce the new behavior while ignoring the unwanted behavior

Here is an example in action: Goldy the greyhound likes to jump on guests who come to visit.

1. Identify: When guests come to your home, ignore Goldy's jumping behavior and only interact with the humans.
2. Define: Decide on an acceptable behavior to replace the jumping (such as "down" on Goldy's bed).
3. Reinforce: When guests come to your home, make Goldy go "down", which will take her attention off jumping. There is no way that she can focus on jumping and listen to your "down" command simultaneously.

Differential Reinforcement also builds trust and confidence between you and your greyhound because you are positively reinforcing desired behavior and telling her what you'd like her to do instead of using negative (and not instructive) "no, no, no".

For more information about building trust and a happier dog, visit:

<http://www.dogtrainingforpeople.com/index.html>. This article used knowledge and literature from Marthina McClay, a well-known Bay Area dog trainer.

*Note: This training may not be an appropriate tool for all behaviors, nor may work with every dog.

Heat Stress

With the weather turning warm, make sure to protect your greyhound from heat stress and heat stroke, which is defined as reaching a body temperature of 105 °F. Normal greyhound temperature is 101 °F. A rectal temperature above 104 °F indicates heat stress, above 105 °F approaches heat stroke, and a sustained temperature of 109 °F can cause severe organ damage.

Warning signs of heat stress and heat stroke include hard panting and prolonged recovery after exercise, rapid heart rate (greater than the normal 60–90 beats per minute), weakness, and mental confusion. If your greyhound exhibits any of these signs, move him into air conditioning and begin cooling the dog by wiping his entire body (abdomen, head, and neck) with cooled water or cold, wet towels. Fanning the greyhound can also help. Seek medical attention for your greyhound immediately – your vet will be able to treat your greyhound with intravenous fluids and, possibly, supplemental oxygen. She will also be able to monitor your greyhound for signs of organ damage.

By far, the best course of action is to prevent heat stroke in the first place. For example, when exercising your dog in the summer, opt for early morning or evening walks. Also consider that in hot weather, it's not only the temperature, but also the humidity that matters. Panting is the primary way in which greyhounds dissipate excess body heat. Humidity can hinder the heat loss from the lungs during panting. Greyhounds, like other dogs, do not have sweat glands like humans do, except for a few in the pads of their feet. When it's very hot, you may need to limit your greyhound's exercise. Make sure that you always have plenty of drinking water on hand for your dog to make sure he stays hydrated. And, never leave your greyhound in the car – even if outside temperatures seem moderate, internal car temperatures can rise rapidly.

Summer is a great time to share with your best friend. Make sure to look out for your greyhound's needs so that everyone will have safe and happy adventures.

S.H.A.R.E.S. Card – A Simple Way to Help with Fundraising

Do you normally shop at Save Mart Supermarkets, S-Mart Foods, FoodMaxx, or Lucky?

These stores participate in a program called S.H.A.R.E.S. (Supporting Humanities, Arts, Recreation, Education & Sports in our community). S.H.A.R.E.S. helps non-profit groups, like ours, raise money. Greyhound Pets of America Northern California/Greyhound Adoption California is now registered with the S.H.A.R.E.S. program. The concept is simple – S.H.A.R.E.S. provides us with cards, we pass them out to adopters who shop at participating stores, and when these cards are presented and swiped before a shopper's order is finished, up to 3% of the shopper's purchase will be donated to GACA.

Would you like to have a S.H.A.R.E.S. card? Please contact us with your name and address and we will mail one to you. It costs you nothing and will help us continue to help the greyhounds.

Greyhound Trivia

Did you know that the average greyhound pregnancy is 63 days?

Get Involved!

We are always looking for volunteers. Please contact us at 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, etc. Whatever your talent or passion, please let us know how you'd like to contribute.

We have a special need for help updating our webpage. Please let us know if you have the time and talent to help.

And, if you have friends or neighbors that are interested in greyhound adoption, please feel free to print and give them a copy of the Greyhound Adoption California brochure that you can find on our website at <http://www.greyhoundadoptioncalifornia.com/whygaca.html> (the link to our brochure is located under the picture of the lounging greyhound).

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Episode and Xander enjoying the first night in their new home