

**Greyhounds Pets of America-Northern California (GPA-NC)/
Greyhound Adoption California (GACA)
Newsletter, Winter 2010**

Happy New Year to our Human and Canine Friends!

We start the New Year with hopes of continued economic recovery for our State and best wishes for the health and happiness of our greyhounds and their adopters. Since our last newsletter, there have been many adoptions to report. Thanks to all for giving the following greyhounds a forever home.

Lily, a special needs greyhound with epilepsy, was adopted by Richard and Delene Dunne. With her condition stabilized by meds, Lily is a happy, playful girl.

Sugar is enjoying a new home with James and Kathleen Farell.

A beautiful white and brindle female, *Pals Greasespill*, was adopted by the Van Waardenbergs.

Dezia was adopted by the Luck Family. She's definitely lucky, having both two-legged and four-legged siblings with which to play.

Shadow, a former brood bitch, was adopted by veterinarian Nicola Mohr and her husband Michael.

Peggy Richardson adopted *Juno*, who also enjoys greyhound brother Phoenix.

Rollie was adopted by the Laptalos.

Jeff Heyman adopted *Katie Bugs*, who is definitely as cute as a bug in a rug.

Chuckles joined the Madej Family.

The Siffermans adopted *Anna*.

Thanks to the Fergusons for giving *Minka* a forever home.

Nicky was adopted by the Denegri Family and joins greyhound sister *Sasha* and human sister Haley.

Our last group of dogs for 2009 were adopted shortly before Christmas and included:

Dasani, who was adopted by Patrick Friel and Amy Rubin.

Dazzy, who was adopted by the Johns and their greyhound *Dakota*.

Lilly, who was adopted by the Davis-Gordon family.

Derby was adopted by Sean and Kate Sitter. Special thanks to the Powell family for providing long-term foster care for him prior to his placement.

Best wishes to all of our new adoptees. May your new lives bring you lots of love, exercise, toys, and treats!

GACA Events!

- San Juan Bautista Arts and Crafts Festival, April 17 and 18, 2010. 10am to 5pm.
- NINTH ANNUAL SPRING DOG FESTIVAL “Woofstock West”, Sunday May 16, 2010, 10AM to 3PM, Soquel High School, Soquel, CA. Visit www.coastaldogs.com for more information.
- San Juan Bautista Rib Cook-Off, May 22 and 23, 2010. 10am to 5pm.
- WOOF TO WOOF -- A Doggie Fun Day & Assistance Dog Expo, Saturday, June 5, 2010, 10am to 3pm, Skypark Soccer Complex, Scotts Valley, CA. Visit www.wooftowoof.com for more information.

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

- Weekly Saturday meet and greets at the Modesto PetSmart
- 2nd Saturday of the month show & tell at a San Jose Petco
- 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 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.

Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) – News from National

We have had several inquiries about upcoming track closures and the impacts that these closures will have on greyhound adoption. According to GPA's [Winter 2010 Greyhound Communique](#), GPA has formed the United Pathfinder Committee to be better prepared to deal with future track closures. This committee is looking to involve many greyhound adoption groups, GPA and non GPA groups, throughout the country to help with the placement of greyhounds from a closed track.

Because of the number of tracks that have closed, the number of greyhounds registered with the National Greyhound Association has seen a large decrease during the past few months.

Greyhound Pets of America held its Annual Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2010. Our chapter was represented by Jim Shofstahl.

Greyhound Health

Canine Influenza H3N8

The *Winter 2010 Greyhound Communique* also reports on several greyhound health issues. Visit <http://www.greyhoundpets.org/CommuniqueWinter2010.pdf> for more information.

While most of us have had the opportunity for a yearly flu shots, we don't always think about our canine friends requiring vaccination. Canine Influenza H3N8 is an emerging, highly contagious, respiratory infection of dogs. The first canine influenza H3N8 vaccine for dogs, developed by Intervet/Schering Plough Animal Health, was conditionally approved by the USDA in May 2009.

While this vaccine does not prevent dogs from becoming infected, it significantly reduces the clinical signs, severity, and spread of canine influenza infection. While vaccinations such as this (e.g. Bordetella) are usually recommended for dogs that are in a kennel environment, you might want to ask your vet if the H3N8 vaccine is appropriate for your dog.

Greyhound Survey

In 2007, the Ohio State Greyhound Health and Wellness Program published an article with the results of a web-based survey of 714 greyhound owners. Their goal was to collect information about the prevalence of different diseases and causes of death among retired racers. Their findings showed that the most commonly reported groups of diseases or disorders (and the percentages of dogs affected by them) were:

- Skeletal (30%)
- Skin (28%)
- Digestive (18%)
- Cancer (13%)
- Endocrine (12%)

The study was updated in 2009 to include information from non-racing greyhounds; but, the 2009 statistics have not yet been released.

Greyhound Chemotherapy

The Ohio State Veterinary School has a program which provides free chemotherapy (5 doses of doxorubicin) drugs to retired racers with osteosarcoma. In exchange, they ask for follow up information and a blood sample for a DNA study in greyhounds with osteosarcoma. For more information about Ohio State's Greyhound Health and Wellness Program, visit <http://vet.osu.edu/1871.htm>.

Simple Things You Can Do to Reduce Your Greyhound's Exposure to Toxic Household and Environmental Chemicals

By Laurel J. Standley, Ph.D., Clear Current

Dr. Standley, an animal lover and cat owner, provides independent technical and policy guidance to businesses and individuals about sustainable water and energy use, healthy household and office environments, and green alternatives in product use and manufacturing. Her tips for reducing our exposure to chemicals can be found at [http://www.clear-current.com/images/Laurel s Top 12.pdf](http://www.clear-current.com/images/Laurel_s_Top_12.pdf).



Recent studies highlight the large number of toxic chemicals that people are exposed to at home and elsewhere. These exposures are associated with illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, and disruption of reproductive and other hormonal systems.

Our companion animals are also exposed to many of the same chemicals that we are at home and other environments where they spend time, such as public parks. Just as studies have shown that we humans are carrying hundreds of chemicals in our bodies¹, a recent study demonstrated that dogs and cats also carry toxic chemicals in their bodies, in some cases at higher concentrations than their human companions². Whether they are also susceptible to the same illnesses associated with these exposures in humans isn't well understood.

While you can't protect your greyhound from all sources of toxic chemicals, here are a few things you can do to reduce his or her exposure.

PESTICIDES AND CANCER:

Several studies have shown an association between use of pesticides in lawn care or flea and tick control and cancers in dogs, such as lymphoma and bladder cancer. Here are a few tips to reduce your greyhound's exposure to pesticides.



- Reduce or eliminate use of pesticides to control weeds or insects on lawns where your greyhound plays. For safer alternatives to these chemicals, check out the following sources: www.panna.org, www.ipmopedia.org, or www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.
- Visiting a dog park? Check with park officials on whether the lawns have been treated with pesticides and when. Waiting a few days after application can help reduce the presence of pesticides in the grass and your greyhound's exposure.
- Select safer flea and tick treatments for your greyhound using the NRDC's guide: www.greenpaws.org/docs/GP_pocketguide.pdf. One important thing to note, not all "natural" products for pest control are safe for dogs. For example, essential oils such as tea tree oil, lavender, and eucalyptus should be used sparingly, if at all, on dogs (see the NRDC guide for more information).

PLASTICS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH:

Chemicals that leach from plastics such as soft vinyl (recycle code 3) or polycarbonates (recycle code 7) have been linked to negative impacts on reproductive health, particularly when exposures occur in the womb. Concerns about these exposures include "feminizing" effects on males and increased risk of breast cancer. As a precaution, especially when your greyhound is expecting, reduce her exposure to plastics.

- Replace her plastic food bowls with food-grade stainless steel or ceramic bowls. Just make sure the ceramic is well glazed (no gaps that allow microbial growth on porous surfaces) and lead-free (check the internet or your favorite pet store for sources of lead-free bowls).
- Find alternatives for plastic chew toys when possible, making sure to avoid toys made from vinyl or recycled plastic bottles.



WATER CONTAMINANTS:



Tap water (and some bottled waters) can contain low levels of many toxic chemicals, including disinfection byproducts (DBPs) that are formed when the water is treated to eliminate microbial contaminants. DBPs have been strongly linked to increased risk of bladder cancer in humans. Dogs, especially Scottish terriers, are also vulnerable to this disease. To remove DBPs and most other contaminants from your greyhound's drinking water (and your own), filter tap water through carbon systems such as those sold by PUR or Brita.

BOTTOM LINE:

You and your greyhound are exposed to many of the same toxic chemicals at home and in outdoor environments. To learn about more things you can do to reduce your own and your companion animal's toxic exposures, download the "Top 12 Tips" list at <http://www.clear-current.com/blog.html>.

REFERENCES:

¹www.cdc.gov/exposurereport ("National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals", Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009).

²<http://www.ewg.org/PetsfortheEnvironment> ("Polluted Pets: High Levels of Toxic Industrial Chemicals Contaminate Cats and Dogs", Environmental Working Group, 2008).

Get Involved!

We are always looking for volunteers. Please contact us at 2greys@mindspring.com if you are interested in helping us in our mission to find loving homes for forever 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.

Greyhound Trivia

Did you know that April is National Greyhound Adoption Month? We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who work very hard during the entire year to help retired racers find forever homes.

Stay Tuned...

For the Spring issue, we would like to include your favorite places to go with your greyhound. If you have a special park, dog-friendly restaurant, or store that you like to visit with your greyhound, please e-mail us at 2greys@mindspring.com so that we can include it in our next newsletter.