



Paws Tales

Issue 15

Fall/Winter 1997

Notes from the Director

I hope everyone had a nice summer. AAGI was busy, and we're all looking forward to the coming months. We have a lot of Parades and Festivals to attend, so read on for more information on volunteer opportunities.

We've had a tremendous response to our Picnic with the Pups. If you haven't sent your RSVP form in yet, please send it as soon as possible. An update on the festivities is located on page 3. We can't wait to see you all there!

The Doo Dah Parade takes place on October 11 this year. If you're interested in attending, please call Elizabeth Stoltz at 753-6508 (notice the new phone number - she's moved since our last issue) as soon as possible. All Doo Dah Parade participants receive an automatic invitation to our Annual Alumni Night.

And speaking of Alumni Night, this year's reunion will take place on Sunday, November 16. For those of you unfamiliar with our Alumni Night, each year Phoenix Greyhound Park invites 150 greyhounds and their owners to the track for a reunion. After a parade on the track, everyone is treated to refreshments inside, courtesy of PGP. We have door prizes, awards, and a Greyhound Bazaar for early Christmas shopping. This is a

spectacular event, however space is limited. Each of you will receive information directly from Phoenix Greyhound Park. While we would love to have everyone attend, with 400 new families joining our group each year, the lottery drawing becomes more difficult. If you are not lucky enough to be drawn this year, please consider attending the parade and enjoy the reception without your greyhound. Our Alumni Night is approaching fast, so look for a letter from PGP in the coming weeks with more details.

We'll also be attending the Tempe Festival of Lights Parade for the first time this year. We hope to make it a tradition. More details follow, so read on.

With all of the events scheduled for fall, you have plenty of chances to do some early Christmas shopping. We're stocking up on T-shirts, sweatshirts, toys, beds, collars, leashes, books and other goodies. We'll have everything available at the picnic, Alumni Night, and, of course in the AAGI Trailer. All profits on these items go back to the greyhounds. The AAGI trailer is open on Friday evenings between adoptions, so come on down and do a little shopping!

From the AAGI staff and their families, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and a wonderful New Year!

Happy Hounding!



Cupid Sivertson



Jetta Hornick



Foxy Bowton

Note: The Greyhounds pictured throughout this newsletter were adopted by families through AAGI.

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P:OOps & S:COOPs

Bashas Fund-raiser

AAGI has begun a new fund-raiser with Bashas Grocery Stores. Bashas will be reimbursing AAGI 45 cents for each filled Bargain Booster Card. We have the potential to raise quite a bit of money from this fund-raiser. Please save your filled Bashas Bargain Booster Cards for us. Either mail them to us at AAGI, 2325 E. Marmora St., Phoenix, AZ 85022, or drop them off at the AAGI trailer on Friday nights. We'll keep you updated on how we're doing in future newsletters. Thank you to Ann Marie Bitondo for suggesting and coordinating this great fund-raiser!



Tempe Festival of Lights Parade

We will be participating in a new event this year - The Tempe Festival of Lights Parade. I am very excited about this one! The parade will be on Saturday, November 29 at 6:00 p.m. At the time of publication of this newsletter, they did not have details on where to meet, what time we line up, our location, etc. If you're interested in volunteering for this parade, please call Kiersten at 971-6935, and we'll call you as soon as we have more details. The only requirement for this parade is you must have a coat or collar that lights up. Battery operated Christmas lights are available at craft stores such as Michael's or Ben Franklin's. Please consider helping with this event. The exposure will be wonderful for the program, and it will surely get you in the holiday spirit! The more greyhounds we have participating, the more of an impact we will make.

Tempe Arts Festival Booth

Many of you attend the Tempe Festival of Arts each Spring and Winter with your greyhounds. The feedback from this event is always exceptional, with over 200,000

people attending these events. This winter we've decided to have our own booth. This is a big project and will require a great deal of help from our wonderful volunteers. The Winter festival will take place on December 5, 6, and 7, but we will be manning a booth on the 6 and 7 only. If you're interested in helping with the booth, please call Kiersten at 971-6935. Leave your name, phone number and best days and times to work. We'll do our best to schedule you in a convenient time frame. We'll send out a schedule and more information when it becomes available. You will not need to bring anything except yourself, your greyhound(s), and a rested voice. I believe we will be doing lots of talking about our great pets!

Racing Silks

I recently read about a company called Greyhound Colors that sells racing silks for retired racing greyhounds. Their phone number is (813) 870-0987 for anyone interested. Their prices are reasonable and I understand that the silks are beautiful. Give them a call for more information.






Volunteers Needed


Just about every day someone calls us and asks what they can do to help our program. Do we ever need volunteers? The answer is a resounding YES! Our program would not work without the help of our wonderful and dedicated volunteers. This time of year we can use that help more than ever. By helping with our different community events, fostering a greyhound for a short time, or helping at our fund-raising events, you can make a huge difference, and have a great time doing it! So please consider helping us with the parades and festivals we'll be attending throughout the year, or volunteer for our picnic. You'll meet other great greyhound owners, and perhaps help another retired racer find a loving home!


Picnic Update!


Picnic With the Pups Update


Our picnic will be here before you know it. October 26 is the big day. We have received many RSVPs and are looking forward to seeing you all there! Some of the things we are planning include:

-  **Bake Sale** for humans and greyhounds. We need volunteers to bring goodies for people and for greyhounds. Please call us and leave a message at 971-6935 if you can contribute to our bake sale. Thanks for your help with this!
-  **Games**, including a Buster Cube contest for the greyhounds, pin the tail on the greyhound, a balloon toss, and more!
-  **Grooming** booth. Get your greyhound(s)' nails trimmed and ears cleaned by our "expert" volunteers. This is important for the health and well-being of your greyhound, so why not take this opportunity to keep up on this important maintenance.
-  **Pet Counselor Booth**. Have a behavior question you've been meaning to ask but haven't had the chance? Well, here's that chance! Our pet counselors will offer up advice on any subject you wish.
-  **Barbecue**, including hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and drinks.

 **Greyhound Bazaar**. Use this opportunity to get a jump start on holiday shopping. We'll have it all there - T-shirts, sweatshirts, collars, leashes, beds, coats (order one there for delivery), toys, and lots of other great greyhound gear.

 **Slug Bug**. This is the perfect opportunity to release any pent up stress you may have. Take a whack at a VW Bug with a sledgehammer!

 **Treasured Moments Booth**. Bring a picture of your beloved greyhound and they'll make a beautiful rose out of it. While you're there, take a look at the other items they have to offer, all benefitting the AAGI hounds!

 **Vendors** with health and food items for your greyhound(s).

Don't forget to buy your tickets when you get there. This is our one major fund-raiser for the year, and all money goes for food, board, veterinary services and medication for the greyhounds waiting for homes. We'll see you at Papago Park on October 26th from 10 am to 2 pm.



Send In Your RSVP!!

Yes, I'll be attending the Picnic at Papago Park with without my greyhound(s)!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your Greyhound(s)'s Pet Name: _____

Your Greyhound(s)'s Racing Name: _____

Please mail this form to RSVP to: AAGI Picnic at Papago Park • 6321 E. Regina Street • Mesa, AZ 85215

Letters

Helen & Darrell Adair, who live in Pocatello, Idaho, adopted two greyhounds from AAGI. J.J., race name J.J. Able, was adopted in September, 1995, when he was 3 years old. About a year later they adopted C. Ruler, call name Doc, a white with red 2 year old male.

Dear Cheryl & Kiersten,

We have had Doc home almost a year now. After Darrell and I retrained ourselves to be in charge, not him, things are really going well. He, J.J., and Fritz the Basset have finally established their pack order. Life is calm again. That is as calm as a house can be with three dogs. They all give so much pleasure and a lot of laughs.

The other day we had them at the park for a walk. A teenager there had a remote control car running. J.J. wanted to chase it. I had my hands full, he was poised and ready to run.

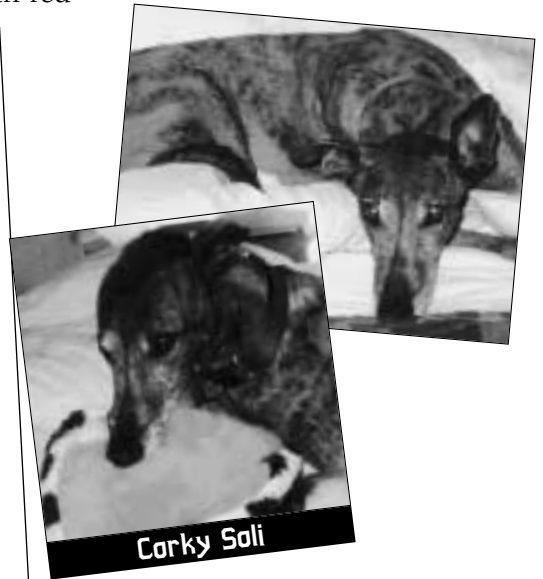
I recently met a woman who was involved in the adopting of the hounds when the Coeur D'Alene track closed down. She told me that not one dog was left without a home. All 750 greyhounds were placed. It made me feel so good to know that.

I took these pictures at American Fall, ID of Doc and J.J. and wanted to pass them on to you. As you can see both of our tall guys are doing fine. I just think they can read minds. You don't even have to say walk or go to them. They just seem to know when it is time.

Will close for now, thanks again for all your help and for our wonderful friends, Doc and J.J.

As always,

Helen and Darrell Adair
Pocatello, ID



Sydney and Tracey Soli of Phoenix adopted R.M.'s Corkscrew, a 5 year old brindle male from the Ron Mack kennel, on July 3, 1996.

Dear Cheryl and Kiersten,

About 3 weeks ago we adopted Corky from AAGI. I just wanted to drop a short note of thanks to you for your dedication to the program.

Corky is a perfect match for our family. He has fit beautifully into our household. He loves his home and family and we love him. He is so precious to us!

Here are a few shots of Corky in his favorite spot.

Sydney Soli

Don't Miss the Picnic!

See other side for details!

One More...

We received the following letter from the Mozdzen Family. They adopted J's Sissy in November of 1996. Misty is a 2 year old red fawn female from the Sandra Gray kennel.

August 19, 1997

Dear Cheryl and Kiersten,

Thanks for all your assistance with Misty and the storms she gets so upset about. We haven't had another storm since Misty freaked out, but we do feel somewhat more prepared for the next. Enclosed are the two articles I told you about that appeared in the May 19, 1997 editions of the *Arizona Republic* and *Chandler Tribune*. My girls were thrilled about it.

Last November we adopted Misty (aka J's Sisey). The girls are competitive swimmers, with my oldest daughter's favorite stroke being butterfly. She has admired Misty Hyman (a local world class butterfly swimmer) for several years, ever since 16 year old Misty just missed making the Olympic team in 1996 by .01 second in the butterfly. The girls decided that naming our greyhound Misty was perfect, because she was fast just like the swimmer.

In February, Misty Hyman came to a swim meet to present awards and to sign autographs. The girls told her about having a greyhound named after her. She was flattered, and the girls were thrilled that they were actually able to tell their role model about the honor. We also found out the two share even more - they are both really sweet "girls" and are quite smart.

In May, these articles appeared, and we realized that Misty, the swimmer, was touched by the naming and really flattered by it all. It was a thrill to them that someone they admire remembered them and their greyhound named Misty.

Sincerely,

Barb Mozdzen

Excerpt from the article in the *Chandler Tribune*: There are compliments and then there are compliments. At a recent swim meet, a little girl approached Misty Hyman of Shadow Mountain High School and told her she had named her pet greyhound after her. Why? Because the greyhound is really fast, the little girl said, just like her. "I was just so flattered, I had no idea that I had that kind of support," Hyman said....



Erinn Trickel



Punky Aquilina



Dallas Aquilina



Bossman Bitondo

Health News...

Call Your Vet When ...

There are a few things that should always prompt you to call your veterinarian. Some of the less obvious include a sudden change in your pet's appetite, your big guy (or gal) seems unusually short of breath, a cough that persists for more than 24 hours, or you find a lump anywhere on your dog. You should not put off talking to your vet about things like your dog losing weight, or their drinking often and urinating more frequently than usual, or signs of the possibility of internal bleeding: blood in vomit, blood in urine, pale or white gums and listlessness. If you suspect blood loss, press your finger against the dog's gums. The gums should turn pink after just a momentary whiteness. If they don't, take the dog to the vet immediately.

If your dog hasn't been drinking the usual amount of water, which could indicate illness, check for dehydration by gently lifting a large pinch of skin on the dog's back. It should snap right back into place. But if the dog is dehydrated, the skin will stay up in a ridge. A dehydrated dog is in serious trouble; take it to the vet right away.

Your dog's breath can also be a clue to illness. If your dog has been drinking and urinating more than usual and also has a sweet, fruity scent to its breath, diabetes could be indicated. If the dog's breath smells like urine, there could be a kidney problem. And if your pet's breath is downright foul, especially when accompanied by vomiting, a swollen abdomen, loss of appetite or yellowish eyes or gums, you should suspect a liver disorder. All of these are reasons to consult your veterinarian.

Build a good relationship with your vet so that you feel free to call when you have a concern about your pet's health. Your vet is always your best source of information about your dog(s).

Thunderstorm Relief

A tip from D.V.M. Alfred J. Plechner for dogs who suffer during thunderstorms. "A small amount of mineral oil placed in the ear will coat the tympanic membrane of the inner ear and muffle the vibrations caused by loud noises. Mineral oil is a good ear cleaner, and will wear off on its own in a few hours."

(Reprinted from "Speaking of Greyhounds")

Health Check

Three areas to look at today while you're reading this:

✓ Your Greyhound's Teeth

Lift up your greyhound's lip and look at its teeth. Are they gray around the canines and molars? It's time for some scaling. If the gums are red, it's time for some Antirobe antibiotics. Call your vet, as it's important that your greyhound's teeth stay in good condition.

✓ Overweight Greyhounds

If you can't see your greyhound's ribs your dog is probably overweight. You have to cut down on the food you feed it, and perhaps change to a light food diet. Of course more exercise will help also. Overweight greyhounds are not healthy.

✓ Check for Growths

As your greyhound gets older, it may be getting growths on its body. It's time to let your fingers do the walking. Check your dog's body and coat, if you find anything take your dog to your vet to get checked.

A Healthy Greyhound Is a Happy Greyhound!

(Reprinted with permission from the National Greyhound Adoption Program newsletter)

Happy Holidays!

Keeping Your Pet Safe Through the Holiday Season

It's that time of year again! The busy holiday season is upon us. Here are a few tips to help keep the furry members of your family happy and healthy:

Christmas Trees are one of the most popular decorations of the season. But to your greyhound, it's just a tree, and an obvious place to pee! Be patient with your pet. Consider putting your Christmas Tree in a room away from where your greyhound spends most of his time.

Be very careful with small and/or glass ornaments. Don't let your greyhound get at

these decorations, as it could break one and cut itself or ingest one and become sick.

Goodies are abundant at this time of year. Greyhounds love sweets, but too many will upset their tummies. Try to keep sweets, especially chocolate, out of your pet's reach.

Many of us have experienced the greyhound's curiosity, and their tendency to redecorate. Don't keep your Christmas presents where your dog could be tempted to "unwrap" them early!



Liz, Bubba & Houston Staltz

— Greyhound House Rules —

- 1 Greyhound **NOT** allowed in house.
- 2 **OK**, Greyhound allowed in house, but **ONLY** in certain rooms.
- 3 Greyhound allowed in all rooms, but has to stay **OFF** the furniture.
- 4 **OK**, Greyhound can get on the old furniture only.
- 5 **Fine**, Greyhound is allowed on all the furniture, but is **NOT** allowed to sleep with humans in the bed.
- 6 **OK**, Greyhound is allowed on the bed, but **ONLY** by invitation.
- 7 Greyhound can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but **NOT** under the covers.
- 8 **OK**, Greyhound can sleep under the covers but **ONLY** by invitation.
- 9 **Fine, OK**, Greyhound can sleep under the covers every night.
- 10 Humans **must ask** permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.

(Reprinted from "Tails From the Northwest" - GPA/NW)

Pet Sitters for the Holidays

Don't forget about your greyhound(s) when making your holiday plans. Our greyhound pet sitters fill up fast this time of year, so make your reservations now.

East Valley

Vivian & Barry Charters - 924-3315
Kate & Wayne Bouton - 396-0293

Central Phoenix

Lisa & Brent Lonius - 395-3986



North Scottsdale & Paradise Valley

Donald Baird - 953-0279

West Valley

Midge & Larry Snook - 997-7964

These petsitters will keep your greyhounds safe and happy while you enjoy your holiday vacation!

For those of you interested in having someone come and stay at your home, give Michelle Pendergast from A Breed Apart a call. She is quite a bit more expensive than our "official" greyhound petsitters, but a few of you have asked for the name of a company that will come and stay at your house. Michelle can be reached at 432-PETS (mobile) or 572-9552 (business).



Arizona Adopt a Greyhound, Inc.
2325 East Marmora
Phoenix, Arizona 85022

Bulk Rate
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Address Correction Requested



Petsmart Schedule

See Site For Current Schedule.

