



Paws

Tales

Issue 16

Spring 1998

Notes from the Director

Happy New Year! First, let me wish you all a healthy and happy 1998. All of us at Arizona Adopt A Greyhound are looking forward to a great year!

1997 went out with a bang. In October, we held our **Annual Picnic at Papago Park**. What a turnout we had! Over 350 greyhounds and their owners came by to shop, get their nails trimmed and ears cleaned, enjoy the BBQ and bake sale, and share stories with each other. It was so wonderful to see you all, and, thanks to your generosity, the kids earned over \$5,000! Our fundraisers are so important, and the money is used to buy supplies for our kennel, and food and veterinary care for the greyhounds waiting for homes. Thank you all so much for attending, and for helping the program. We couldn't do it without you. We're working on a Spring picnic and doggywash, so watch for the next newsletter for more details!

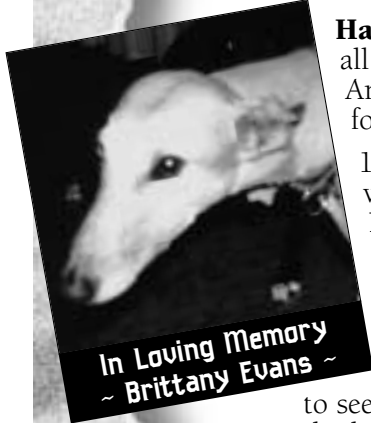
Our **Annual Alumni Night** took place on Sunday, November 16. It was a beautiful night at the track, with over 150 greyhounds attending the event. The evening began with a parade on the track which was simulcast to 35 off track betting sites, as well as thirteen tracks around the country. Each family was introduced and a short story shared about their pets. After the group roo (always the highlight of the night!) everyone moved inside for a buffet style dinner, shopping, and raffle prizes. I was surprised with a beautiful award for my work

with the greyhounds, with an inscription reading "To Cheryl, with love, from thousands of wagging tails." It was an emotional evening for me, and one that I know most of us will not forget! I would like to thank **Phoenix Greyhound Park** for putting on this event again, and **ProPac** and **Goober** for the donation of **free food for a year**, **Phoenix Greyhound Park** for the donation of the **Suns Tickets**, **Marsha Roe** and **John Roos** for the donation of the **Coyotes tickets**, and **Amy Sap** and **Jeff Nelson** for the donation of the **golf at Wildfire Golf Course** and **golf lessons**.

We also participated in the **Tempe Kiwanis Club Festival of Lights** parade on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. What a sight it was! We had approximately 20 greyhounds come decked in blankets and collars and leashes that lit up! I have to compliment our families for the time and effort they put into making these beautiful blankets and costumes. And it paid off, as our **AAGI entry won "Best Use of Lights"** and \$100.00 cash. The hounds in the kennel received special holiday toys with the winning money. Great job, everyone, we can't wait for next year!

We attended two art festivals since our last issue. The first, **The Fountain Hills Festival**, was held on November 7, 8, and 9, and was a great success. Our volunteers spoke with many, many people, and we have had a couple of adoptions from this festival so far. But more importantly, thousands of people learned more about greyhounds and what great pets they make. We also attended the **Tempe Arts Festival**. Again, a great event with thousands of people stopping by for

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In Loving Memory
~ Brittany Evans ~



Giant Shotts & His Kitty



Spot & Bingo Long

Note: All dogs pictured in this newsletter were adopted through AAGI.

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POPS & SCOOPS

Renaissance Festival

The Renaissance Festival is back in February and March. AAGI has participated in this festival for the last two years, however we've made some changes this year. Due to the strict committee rules, AAGI has decided that a private group would be far more effective in scheduling and participating in this festival. They will be representing greyhound adoption in general, and raising awareness of greyhounds as pets in people from all over the state. If you're out at the Renaissance Festival, please be sure to stop by and say hi to the hounds.

Basha's Bargain Boosters

The Basha's Bargain Booster program is going great. Many of you have sent in Bargain Boosters, raising a total of close to \$100.00 to date. Thank you for sending the Bargain Boosters, and please keep them coming. The greyhounds appreciate it!

Oakland A's

The Oakland A's have invited us to attend their Spring Training Games this season. We will attend several weekend and evening games throughout the season. Anyone interested in volunteering should give us a call at 971-6935, and leave a message in mailbox 4.

AAGI's New Phone System

As many of you already know, AAGI has acquired a new answering machine. Our new machine has four different mailboxes, making it much easier to retrieve our messages. We have noticed that our new machine is confusing some of you, so I thought I'd explain what each mailbox is for. Mailbox 1 is

for new callers, people calling because they would like more information about adopting a greyhound. Mailbox 2 is for lost and found greyhounds. If your greyhound should get out, please leave us a message in mailbox 2 immediately. Mailbox 3 is for families who already have a greyhound and have questions, and mailbox 4 is for anyone wishing to volunteer for any of the functions we are participating in. When you call and press a mailbox number, you will not hear another message, just start talking after the beep.

This new answering system has helped our staff keep incoming calls organized. Thanks for being patient with our new system.

AAGI Has A New Home

The AAGI staff will be busy for the next two months as we are moving our kennel. For the last four years we have kept our retired racers at a kennel in Tolleson. This kennel has recently been sold, however we have found a great new home. We'll keep you posted on the details, and let you know how our move goes in our next newsletter. See our Wish List on page 5!

The Reign of the Greyhound

We have a wonderful new book in our AAGI trailer called **The Reign of the Greyhound: A Popular History of the Oldest Family of Dogs**. This book, written by Cynthia Branigan (she also wrote **Adopting the Racing Greyhound**, our bible!) is a must for any library. The book "traces the role of the greyhound from its earliest appearances in classical literature through medieval Europe, the American West and into the present." **The Reign of the Greyhound** sells for \$24.95. Stop in and check it out!

Notes From the Director continued...

more information. Our volunteers all agree that these two events are a must for our organization, so we will be attending the Fountain Hills Arts Festival again and the Spring Tempe Arts Festival on March 28 and 29. Give us a call at 971-6935 if you're interested in helping out with either of these events.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every volunteer who helped us sell beer at the **Arizona Cardinals** games. This is a great fund-raiser for us, and **Michele Rebeor** has done a fantastic job rounding up volunteers to staff every game. We know this takes a lot of time, Michele, and we appreciate your help. We've received good feedback from these games, and will most likely continue to work them.

Thanks again for the effort. Watch for the summer newsletter for more information on fall games.

Thanks again to everyone for your support of AAGI. I hope to see you at some of our events in the coming months. — Cheryl



Perot Lawless

10 Commandments for a Responsible Pet Owner

1. My life is likely to last 10 - 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me - it is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment. **I only have you!**
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I'll never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, remember that I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart may be getting old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old. You, too, will grow old.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch it" or, "Let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there.

Remember, I love you.



Brittany & Loco Evans

Ask the Vet...

Dr. Suzanne Stack, D.V.M.

We first ran this article in the Winter 1994 issue of Paws and Tales. We thought it worth a second run, as it deals with a very important, and often overlooked, subject.



You can tell if your greyhound's toenails are too long by standing him on a flat surface. You should be able to slide a piece of paper up under his nails. If you cannot do this, they are too long.

Fortunately, greyhounds are accustomed to having their nails clipped several times weekly while racing; though it is amazing how wimpy some of them become in their retirement. Greyhounds are used to having their nails cut while standing, with you standing beside them, facing the tail and lifting each foot on the opposite side, much as a farrier trims a horse's hooves. There are two types of nail clippers which can be purchased at pet shops. One has a "guillotine" end and the other looks more like a pair of pliers with heavy plastic handles. I prefer the "plier" type on these big dogs, and that is what all the racing kennels use.

Nails are best managed, especially if they are over-long, by cutting them weekly until they are back to normal. Since the blood vessels in the nail grow along with the nail shell, you cannot cut long nails back completely in one session without drawing blood. To get an idea how short you can go, see if your greyhound has any white nails. Start with these as you can see the pinkish blood vessel through the translucent nail. Take off only a small bit at a time, maybe cutting five or six times until you can either see you are near the vein or the dog becomes sensitive, indicating that you are close. Unfortunately, some dogs will cry out with any cutting

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Information

what-so-ever. After you've done the white nails, you can use them to guesstimate how far to trim the black nails. Remember, start by taking little bits off the end and working your way back. Never cut up high in the nail all at once, as this is a great way to get a fast bleeder.

It is best to cut nails outside, so that if you do get bleeding, it doesn't get all over the house. Veterinarians use silver nitrate cautery sticks to stop the bleeding, but it is impractical to buy a pack for just one or two dogs, as they fall apart in just a few months. If you are reluctant to try trimming your greyhound's nails without them, ask your vet for a few sticks just before you do it. Silver nitrate sticks sting when applied to a bleeding nail, so be ready. Other items that can be used to stop bleeding are styptic (shaving) pencils, various blood-stop powders (available from pet shops), flour and baking powder (fill a small container and dip the nail in it). Dry the nail first with a paper towel, then quickly apply the cautery substance before the bleeding re-starts. If none of these things work well, and if all fails, the bleeding will stop on its own. Just let them run around outside until it does and give them an extra dog biscuit.



Nipper Cooper

Calling all volunteers!

We often have families call us and ask "What can we do for the program?" While there are many things you can do, the most important is to volunteer. During Spring and Fall we are especially busy, and we are taking on more and more projects, such as art festivals and spring training games. These events take place over several days and require many volunteers to be sure we don't overwork the greyhounds that come out. If you are interested in helping, give us a call at 971-6935 and leave a message in mailbox 4. We will also be holding a volunteer meeting on Sunday, April 5 at 5 pm at Phoenix Greyhound Park. We invite everyone that volunteers for us to attend (even if you've attended a volunteer meeting in the past, please attend this one as well). We will answer questions and prepare you for your volunteer work. Please come if you would like to get more involved with Arizona Adopt A Greyhound. No greyhounds, please, this meeting is just for you!

Letters from our Families

Deb Iodice adopted Renstar, whom she now calls Beaker, in January 1997. Beaker is a 3 year old dark brindle female. AAGI volunteers and staff;

Beaker, my parents, and I attended our first AAGI Alumni Parade and it was WONDERFUL. Everyone did a fabulous job! Everything was so well organized. The parade was a hit. My parents purchased a video and Beaker will be getting a brand new customized collar for Christmas.

I am so glad that I adopted Beaker; everyone who meets her loves her. she brings so much joy into our lives and I hope she enjoyed herself at the party.

I just wanted to say GREAT JOB and thanks for the wonderful event. We all had a great time and I definitely think Beaker enjoyed seeing her friends again!

Deb Iodice and Beaker

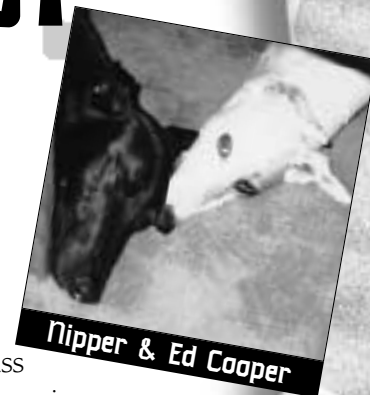
Info. & Wish List

Greyhound Kennels - Equipped to Travel

by Dennis Young

Several of the kennels that race at PGP come from outside Arizona, and all greyhounds which race in any performance must be trucked in from kennels off of the PGP grounds. The process of moving the greyhounds on the journey to Phoenix Greyhound Park involves the use of equipment especially designed for this purpose. Several companies in Florida and in Kansas manufacture pick-up truck bodies and trailers that kennels utilize to transport the greyhounds whether the trip be three or three thousand miles. These bodies and trailers are often air conditioned, very well insulated, and provide plenty of ventilation for the greyhounds as they travel.

Each kennel maintains its own supplies to care for their greyhounds. Typical kennel supplies include: a large fiberglass feed mixing bowl, feed pans, grooming benches, a platform scale, bedding for individual kennels, feed supplements, antibiotics and other medicines, grooming supplies, racing muzzles, water buckets, shovels, hoses, and various types of greyhound therapy equipment. Therapy equipment includes: whirlpool baths, magnetic field therapy, soft laser machine, and ultra sound machine. Each of these devices are used to treat and prevent muscle soreness and common injuries.



Nipper & Ed Cooper

AAGI Wish List For Our Adoption Kennel

The following is a wish list of things we need for our hounds waiting for homes in our adoption kennel. If you would like to donate any of these items, please stop by the adoption trailer at Phoenix Greyhound Park on Friday evenings, or give us a call at 971-6935 and we'll make other arrangements. Thank you for all of your generous donations to AAGI!

Bleach • Tide • Blankets • Towels • Stuffed Toys • Chew Toys • Disinfectant • Metal Crates

Letters from our Families

Greer and Mike Dietrich adopted their first greyhound, Georgia, a 6 year old red female, in January, 1997. In August they adopted their second greyhound, Charlie, and white and red 3 year old male.

December 1997

Happy Holidays! As you can see - Georgia and Charlie have adjusted well to home life and each other (and Mike and I now sit on the floor!). We're excited about our first Christmas together and thank you all for making it possible!

Greer and Mike and Georgia and Charlie Dietrich



Mike & Charlie



Mike, Georgia & Charlie

Letters from our Families

Kristen Nylen and Tony Rodriguez adopted Sara, WD's Blues Baby, on October 10, 1997. Sara, whom they now call Holly, is a six year old blue brindle female.

October 13, 1997

Dear Cheryl, Kiersten, Deb, Linda, Sam and all of the other wonderful people involved in the Arizona Adopt A Greyhound Program, I would like to tell ALL of you how happy you have made us with all of your help in the adoption of our new Greyhound "Holly."

Our dog is just an absolute babe!! She is more than we ever expected from everything that we had heard, (more in a good way), and I meant what I said about feeling like we became parents last Friday, seeing as we don't have any "human" children yet. It broke my heart this morning leaving Holly home alone when I went to work. Our cat Amaretto is just about getting used to seeing her in the house so maybe they became secret friends while we were gone!

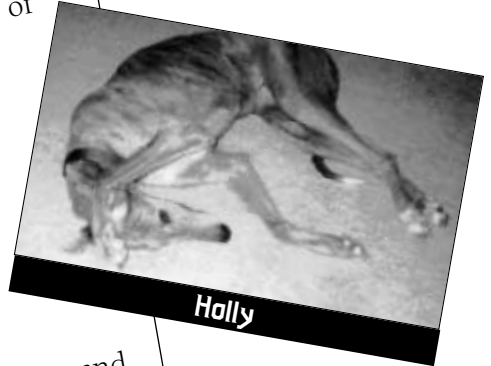
Both Tony and I have already been approached by people in our neighborhood when we take Holly out for her walks, full of questions and comments. I feel like making small cards on the computer to hand out to these people so they can adopt a Greyhound of their own...they don't know what they're missing!

Coming from two families who grew up owning dogs all of our lives, I can honestly say that I know our next dog will be another Greyhound, and who knows how many families we can get involved just by walking our around the neighborhood. I get such a kick out of all of this.

Well ladies, I am again so happy that I listened to my Mom when she told me all about this wonderful thing called "adopting a Greyhound" from a local program in New Jersey. I had never inquired about it out here because I had no idea how special this really was until she sent me all of the literature from back east. I can't say thank you enough for helping to make our home complete with our new addition, and what a great feeling it is to be a small part of your wonderful organization.

If there is ANYTHING Tony or myself can ever do to help out in any way, be it as volunteers for an upcoming event, or as Foster parents for any of your dogs, don't hesitate to ask. We're here and we would love to help!

With much love and thanks,
Krysten Nylen, Tony Rodriguez, Holly Garnet and Amaretto



Holly



Bingo Lang



Coco Giblin

We're Updating our Records!

AAGI's mailing list is growing by leaps and bounds! Because our mailing list has become so large, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep track of many of you. Each time we send out a newsletter we get many returned because we have the wrong mailing address, and this costs us quite a bit in postage. Would you please help us out by filling out the following questionnaire and mailing it back to us? We'd also love to hear how your greyhounds are doing!

If you would like to remain on our mailing list, you **must** return the questionnaire below. Thank you for your time in helping us keep our database current!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Greyhound(s): *(Please give us the call name and race name your greyhound had when you first adopted him/her if you can remember it, as well as the new name)*

Name(s): _____

Comments: _____

Please mail to: AAGI • 2325 E. Marmora • Phoenix, AZ 85022

Gallery



Trolley McKenna



Sydney



Baker Drews



Dana Masiulewicz



Dana pictured with her LIVE bunnies!



Ed Cooper



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