

Notes from the Director

Greetings! The holiday season brought us lots of mail. Thank you for your letters, pictures, and Christmas cards. Many of your pictures are being considered for our picture booth at Phoenix Greyhound Park, and lots will fill our albums for everyone to enjoy. It is wonderful that so many people who adopt greyhounds continue to contribute.

With the busy holiday season behind us, it's time to roll up our sleeves and begin our new projects.

I am very happy to report that Arizona Adopt A Greyhound has moved into our new kennel! After an unexpected move, our hounds are settled into a great new facility which will be much more convenient for the AAGI staff. We'd like to thank Bob Gray and his father Clyde for opening their doors and giving us the opportunity to be located so close to Phoenix Greyhound Park.

I would also like to thank the numerous foster homes that stepped up during our time of need, including Henry and Midge Snook, Matt Abel and Sherry Robinson, Kathy and Todd Berlin, Margaret Henning, Judy Graham, Allison and Clyde Solenski, Paula Masiulewicz, Anne Oens, Donna, Don and Ryan Corriere, Les and Becky Coates, and the AAGI Staff. We appreciate all of you opening your homes to our

foster greyhounds. Finally, I'd like to thank Joey Diebel, Darryn Bodak, and and Joey Van Arsdale for helping us with the move, and of course Dan Luciano and Win Burrows from Phoenix Greyhound Park for their constant support.

Due to circumstances beyond our control we were forced to cancel our Golf Tournament this year. However, we're replacing it with a Spring Rummage Sale Fund-raiser. Details about how you can help with this project are on page 5 We hope to hold our First Annual AAGI Golf Tournament next year instead.

Our **Annual Alumni Night** will take place on **Sunday, April 2**. Always a popular event, we're looking forward to this year's festivities, read on for more information on this event.

Greyhounds are the best! You and I know that. But what about the general public? How do we, as greyhound adoption organizations, tell the rest of the world that greyhounds make good pets and they need good homes? One of the best things we can do is Public Relations (PR). Take your dogs to the street fairs, long walks , or to PetsMart. Show off your dog! People will not only ask questions but they will listen to a happy owner.

Spring brings lots of events and we need your help in the PR department. If you can assist us in this area, give us a call. ☎

Happy Hounding!

Cheryl



Apollo Unsworth



Mario, Zanzi & Charyn Wieneke



**Queen Hetrick
Moving is Very Hard Work**



Breezie Barone

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P:OOps & S:COOps

Tempe Festival of Arts

This year's festival will take place on **Saturday, March 25th and Sunday, March 26th**. For more information or to volunteer to work with your greyhound at our booth, give **Sharon** a call at (602) 971-6935, mailbox 3.

AAGI Annual Alumni Night

Sunday, April 2, 2000

This is a favorite for all of our families! Phoenix Greyhound Park invites 100 families and their greyhounds back to the track for a parade and party. Unfortunately not all of our 4,000 greyhounds will fit, so look for your application to attend in the mail from Phoenix Greyhound Park in the next couple of weeks. They will randomly draw 100 families from the applications they receive. If you're not lucky enough to be drawn, you're still welcome to attend without your greyhound. If you are drawn and find you can't attend, **please** call and let us know as soon as possible. Hundreds of families are not drawn and one of them would love your spot. And remember, there's always next year! Check your mail, you should be receiving your application soon.

Special Olympics Basketball and Cheerleading Tournament

Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8.

What a great day we always have at the **Special Olympics events!** This tournament takes place at **Red Mountain High School in Mesa**. The response from the kids to our greyhounds is tremendous, so if you have the time, please volunteer. You'll be so glad you did!

New Licensing Procedures for Maricopa County Animal Control

Those of you who adopted in the last six months are aware of our new agreement with Maricopa County, which now requires us to license the greyhounds as soon as we get them. Once the greyhound is officially adopted to his or her new family, the license will be transferred into their name free of charge. The license fee is \$10.00 and is now collected at the time of adoption to reimburse AAGI, which has already paid this fee to Maricopa County.

Annual Prescott Spring Picnic

For our families up North, the Prescott group will be having their Annual Spring Picnic on Saturday, April 1st from 12 pm to 2 pm. For more information, please call Evelyn David at (520) 541-7554 or Jo Battistelli at (520) 777-0255.

Oakland A's Spring Training

The Oakland A's have graciously invited us back for another season! The games take place throughout the month of March, so give Sharon a call at (602) 971-6935 and leave her a message in mailbox #3 for more information or to sign up to work a game.

PetsMart Help

We're looking for Captains for our PetsMart stores at 67th Avenue and Peoria and Alma School and Warner in Chandler. The Captain is responsible for being at the store one weekend day a month with



Bruser Keister

brochures and supplies. There is usually plenty of help, and we'll find someone to fill in if you need a weekend off. If you think you can commit to one weekend day a month (see schedule for specific times and dates) give us a call at (602) 971-6935, mailbox 3. We need the help!

Goober Pet Delivery

Just a reminder that if you want to pick up the phone, slam your check under the doormat, and return home to your food on the front door step, give GOOBER a Call. They usually can deliver the next day, no muss, no fuss. Call them at 480-545-9192.

Adoption Update

In 1999 AAGI adopted 350 of these wonderful pets to loving homes just like yours. Part of our success last year was due to many of you adopting a second greyhound. REMEMBER: "Greyhounds are like potato chips - it's hard to stop with just one!" Joan Dillon. 🐾

Tearful Good-Byes

3

Dec. 16, 1999

Dear Cheryl,

Seven plus years after we added "Phoenix" to our family I felt I had to write you to thank you for all he has meant to us. At the time that Julia and I decided to get a dog I knew that we would have to have a special one as Julia wasn't big on pets, especially dogs. When we pulled up in front of your adoption kennel near 24th street the boys thought we were going someplace else, as Mom would never get a dog.

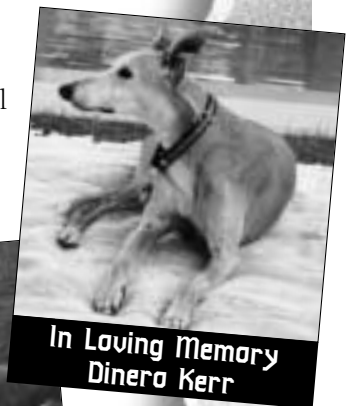
We found a wonderful friend and family member that day. He was a big fawn 100+ pounds. that was very mellow and he smiled! Phoenix has been quietly smiling around here for the last seven plus years and has given me some of the best memories of my life. As a young boy growing up in the Midwest I had many dogs and know that a special dog comes along very seldom in your life. Phoenix was one of those, he almost seemed to know what we were thinking and always gave a little extra when someone needed it. He especially liked camping where he could get as dirty as he wanted without getting scolded.

All good things must come to an end and two weeks ago Phoenix and I had to make one last trip to the vet. As you can imagine a dog this big at 13+ just wears out, starting with the hips. All the other old dog problems followed ending with what the vet thought was a 90% chance of cancer. When it appeared he was having more bad days than good and couldn't get comfortable anymore I did what I had to. This was the hardest thing I have ever done.

We have pictures of him all around the house and he was such a part of our lives for all these years. I can't stop thinking of him but I'm sure in time it will feel better. The real reason for this letter is to thank you for giving us something more valuable than you will ever know. I'm sure that there are times when you get lost in the "work" and forget about the "purpose" but for us it has been a true blessing.

I hope the holidays bring you all the best and maybe some time in January you'll get another call from us asking for the most mellow dog that you have. It wouldn't hurt if he smiled, too.

Fred, Julia, Kurt, and Fred, Jr.
The Messners



We're Losing a Member of our Family

AAGI is sad to report that **Deb** and **Larry Trickel** will be moving to Portland, Oregon.

Deb joined our group in July 1994 when she offered to foster a greyhound. In the six years she has worked with AAGI she has become an invaluable member of the team, handling all calls for information, the accounting for the program, managing the database, running the adoption trailer on adoption nights, and so many other things we couldn't possibly list them all. She keeps the rest of us in line and organized when things get hectic. Deb's husband, Larry, has been a regular fixture at all of our events and helps to keep our computers running smoothly. Along the way they have adopted four greyhounds, making their move to Oregon an interesting journey!

We're not sure how we're going to make it when Deb leaves. Lucky for us she has agreed to take some of her jobs with her to Oregon (we're not letting her off of the hook that easily!). In this modern age of telecommuting she'll still be able to keep us organized!

Good luck, Deb and Larry, we're going to miss you! 🐾



Medically Speaking...

Medically Speaking, Greyhounds Are Funny

Greyhounds are funny. I'm not talking about the comical way they lay upside down, with one leg out for balance. Nor do I mean the silly little grins some of them give when greeting friends. What I am talking about are the interesting medical differences between greyhounds and most other dogs.

Common tranquilizer, uncommon reaction.

For instance, most greyhound owners know by now that greyhounds respond differently to barbiturate anesthesia than do many other breeds. Many owners, however, don't know that greyhounds also often overreact to a tranquilizer called Acepromazine, or just "Ace," as it is commonly known. Ace is prescribed routinely for thunderstorms, fireworks and travel anxiety. The dose that most veterinarians give for a cat—about 10 milligrams, will easily keep most greyhounds woozy for up to 12 hours. Now compare that to the dose a German shepherd who weighs the same as a greyhound might be given—25 to 50 milligrams. A little Acepromazine goes a long way with most greyhounds!

A "big-hearted" dog.

In general, greyhounds have been found to have bigger hearts than the average dog of the same size. Some dogs have been through a number of tests to determine why the heart appears enlarged on a radiograph, only to have the conclusion be that the heart size is normal for a greyhound. To complicate matters, of course, greyhounds are among the breeds that can develop heart problems, and a truly enlarged heart can be one early sign.

Greyhounds also often have fewer platelets than the average dog, so no panic is needed if they test low-normal or slightly less than normal when having a blood test. Obviously, a very low platelet count is still cause for concern, even in a greyhound.

Another blood "abnormality" often seen in greyhounds is a higher-than-standard red blood count. This is common, too,

among human athletes. The only time this causes concern is when a veterinarian who is not familiar with greyhounds diagnoses that the dog has "too many" red blood cells and tries to treat by removing blood. This will make the greyhound anemic, not cure him of his ills.



Fortunately, veterinarians are becoming more familiar with greyhounds because there are lots of them in homes these days. A mistake, such as diagnosing too many red blood cells, is becoming uncommon.

Hyperthermia, especially in nervous greyhounds.

One serious and definitely not funny thing that some greyhounds do is become hyperthermic (develop a high temperature) after waking from surgery.

This condition is very uncommon in other breeds. In greyhounds it occurs most frequently in shy dogs, greyhounds who are nervous or very frightened about being at the veterinary hospital. If the condition is not noticed or not treated, it can be fatal.

If you are the owner of a nervous or shy greyhound, it might pay to mention this possibility to your veterinarian when your dog needs surgery, so he or she can be monitored closely after waking up. Hyperthermia can be treated if diagnosed in time.

All breeds have their quirks. These are just a few of the quirkiest things about greyhounds. After all, as I've learned over the many years I've been involved with this breed, greyhounds are funny.

Dr. Lewis, Hillcrest Veterinary Hospital, San Diego, CA.

Excerpts from Fast Tracks, Newsletter from "Greyhounds Unlimited", July-Sept- 1999.

Reprinted with permission from "Home Stretch", October 1999.

Rummage Sale!

Spring Rummage Sale Fund-raiser

April 15th and April 16th

It's spring, and that means it's time to clean out those garages, cupboards and closets. **Not sure what to do with all of your "treasures?"** Why not donate it to AAGI for their **Spring Rummage Sale Fund-raiser?!** Your donation is tax deductible and it's a great cause.

We're planning three big garage sales, one on the East side, one in Central Phoenix, and one on the West side, which will all take place on **Saturday, April 15th and Sunday, April 16th.** Donations will be accepted on Saturday, April 8th and Sunday, April 9th, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Please call for directions. Anything that is not sold during our garage sales will be donated to another charitable group.

We will also need many volunteers to help price and sell, so if you can help please call (602) 971-6935 and leave a message in mailbox #3. The garage sales will take place from 6 am - approximately noon each day.

Garage Sale and Donation Drop Off Locations:

East Side - Tempe - (480)-964-7368

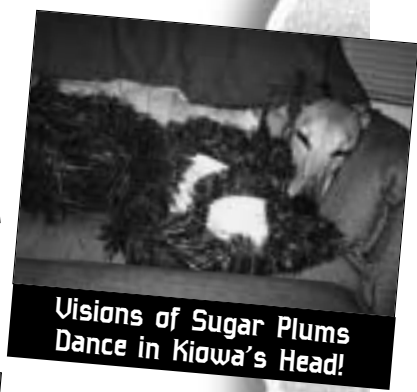
Central Phoenix - (602) 678-0894

West Side - Glendale - (623) 572-6735

Our first Rummage Sale, which took place at Park N' Swap, was a great success, raising almost \$1,000.00 for our program. We hope this one will be even better! 🐾



Sydney Pate and Carmelita



Visions of Sugar Plums Dance in Kiowa's Head!



Icy, Largo, Link & Georgia Campbell



Dana & Marcus Masiulewicz and Bunnies

AAGI Wish List

It's a big job to manage and maintain a program that places so many greyhounds into adoptive homes. There are a lot of things we need to make our efforts more productive and our hounds happier. If you can provide any of the following items, call us at (602) 971-6935.

Please keep in mind that donations to AAGI are tax deductible to the extent provided by the IRS code.

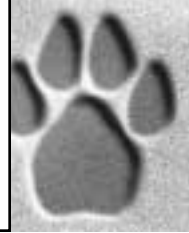
1. Toys for the dogs
2. Airline crates or wire crates
3. Muzzles
4. Towels
5. Bleach
6. Rugs for fluffing in crates
7. Dog treats and chews
8. Tide/detergent
9. Carpet 🐾



Maloney Smatanskas



Rudy and Gang



Letters

Julia Hamilton adopted Bear, race name Jagr Bear, in June 1999. Bear, whom she named Baran, is a beautiful large black male.

September 23, 1999

Dear Cheryl and Kiersten,

I've been meaning to write to you for weeks to thank you for sending the most wonderful greyhound in the world home with me.

First of all, Bear is Baran now. I wanted to give him a name that reflected his elegance and the breed's history, so spent days searching through name lists of Egyptian kings and Greek gods. They were all either unpronounceable or just didn't fit. I moved on to other lists of names and found Baran. It's short for Aldebaran, the brightest star in the Taurus constellation. I think it is an appropriate name for a wonderful boy with a 55A right ear tattoo. So Baran it is. It worked out well for him, too, since the sound is so similar to the name he was used to hearing.

Although Baran was a bit nervous and unsure of things when he first came home, he has adapted well. He has been such a good boy, even from the very first moment. He never had an accident in the house, never chased my two old kitties, always showed proper respect for my 6-year old mixed-breed girl, Liza. He is a very loving, affectionate boy. He and Liza take turns getting tummy rubs and kisses. I've also discovered Baran enjoys being rubbed just behind his ears.

Baran loves his two long walks each day. His level of anticipation and excitement starts building about half an hour before walk time. He is getting less afraid of car rides, though he'd still rather not go in the car. He has been on his first out-of-town car trip, up to my mother's house in the White Mountains (about a 5-hour drive from my home in central Phoenix). By the end of the trip, he was finally getting in the car on his own, for which I'm grateful. It is a bit of work to push a 90+ pound greyhound into a car against his will!

He loved his weekend at Grandma's house. She's got a fenced-in acre, so he got a chance to do some serious jogging. I was surprised that he didn't do a full-out run. He was so very good at Grandma's house, too. We took his muzzle because she has lots of ducks, several geese, and a couple turkeys on her property. After about 10 minutes with the muzzle on, it was apparent that Baran wasn't going to chase Grandma's birds, so he got to spend the rest of the weekend unmuzzled.

His favorite treat is still pig ears, just as it was at his foster family's home. We discovered that pig ears are relatively inexpensive at Costco, so we go there to buy them in bulk. He also loves the peanut butter cookies from the recipe list that came in our greyhound adoption packet.

This wonderful boy is definitely a pet now and enjoying his retirement. It's such a pleasure to have him as part of my family. I cannot imagine ever living without a greyhound companion. Thank you again for selecting this wonderful dog to send home with me.

Sincerely,

Julia Hamilton



Shyanne Campbell



Jodie Taylor

Special Needs Greyhounds

COKE

Coke is a 9 year old black female, retired racer and mom to several litters of pups! In great condition, on the small side, very loving, friendly, outgoing, good with older kids and other pets, preferably no cats. Mellow.

AMY

Amy is a 9 year old red female, very pretty face, laid back and mellow. Good with other animals, including cats. Also good with older kids.

GRECO

Greco is a 8 year old black male, playful and friendly. Likes older kids, cats, and other pets. A real sweetheart and very fun loving.

LUCRETIA

Lucretia is a 10 year old blue brindle female. Very good and sweet. A little bit uncomfortable with a dog door, but is able to use it. She's kind and quiet.



Fiesta of Lights Parade



Reindeer



April & Saich



Cupid Sivertson

The Campbell family adopted their third greyhound, Sammi, in July 1999.

Dear Cheryl:

We just wanted to send a special thanks to you for our latest addition — Sammi and let everyone know that it is really true that “greyhounds get better with age”! Willie (Ole Wayout Willy) and Shyanne (Sholow Royal) have been with us for one year — and we couldn’t love them more — and always thought that our greyhound population would stay at two! Then, you wrote about the “Golden Oldies” in the last newsletter and we did as you said and looked to see if there was any more room on our sofa! (We were in luck — Willie doesn’t jump and stays on the floor, so there was another whole half a sofa sitting empty!) Luckily, when we found the room Sammi found himself homeless and, thanks to you, we found each other! He is just great - a real lover who follows us everywhere and is not happy unless his head is in someone’s lap! His tail never stops wagging and when he looks at us with that grin, we can’t help but smile back at him! He adjusted in the first hour he lived here, made instant friends with Willie and Shyanne, and has made himself very “at home”. Willie and Shyanne are very happy to share everything with Sammi, but are still working on getting him to use “their” dog door! Their three new beds are in our bedroom and every night and morning they all play tag together — jumping from one bed to another! The cats just watch in shock!



Sammy and Willie

Thanks also to Linda for arranging a time for us to easily pick up Sammi and to Kiersten for her calls matter of fact, we expect him to still be here for Shyanne’s 15th birthday party — and she is only now 3 years old! Of course, you are all invited, too! Thanks again...

Bob and Barbara Campbell



2325 East Marmora
Phoenix, Arizona 85022

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**Clean Out Your
Garage for Our
Spring Rummage
Sale Fund-raiser!**

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PetsMart Schedule

Please See Site for Current Schedule.

