



# Paws & Tales

December 2009

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## Contact Us

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## Notes from Our Director

Happy Holidays to everyone –

Well, it has been an interesting year with lots of ups and downs. Of course the big news in AAGI-land was the closing of Phoenix Greyhound Park and it was with great sadness that we stood at the finishline for the running of the final race on December 19.

As AAGI closes out the year we are pleased to be able to say that we placed 312 greyhounds in 2009 with another 122 going to other programs. 37 of those pups went out in December so we had a really busy month.

The other side of that ledger is that we end the year with 81 dogs in the program and another 30 we have committed to bring in in January as the racing kennels and breeding farms close down or move on. Not only is this an all time high for the number of dogs available for adoption but a higher than normal percentage are older dogs that have come from the breeding farms. We have both brood mommies and stud dogs in the program right now and these older kids become more of a challenge to place. We also have several younger dogs that had not completed their race training, including some that don't even have official names or tattoos.

So we really do have something for everyone and we are forever grateful to everyone who continues to spread the word about what great pets our greyhounds make.

What is in our future??

For the next 3 months (through March 2010) we will continue adoptions at Phoenix Greyhound Park. We will be moving our adoption center to the Paddock (the building where the dogs were prepared for racing) and will stay on our Friday adoption schedule from 4:30-8:00 pm. We will be doing our tour as a Power Point presentation so we can continue to educate new adopters about the differences of our breed. Check on the website for detailed instructions on how to find us.

We will have some retail items available – mostly the stock that has not yet sold and our regular “dog” stuff that we will continue to carry for adopters. Until we come to a final decision we won’t re-stock a lot of the retail items.

Our nail clinic will also continue in the paddock. Same bat-time and schedule so check the website.

We remain hopeful that the legislators will realize that gaming is an ideal source of revenue in a state desperate for funding. The proposal by the racing industry would give a full 45% of gaming revenue to the state, whereas the Indian casinos pay a maximum of 8%. We don’t know what sort of impact writing your representatives would have, but it certainly can’t hurt. As they head back into session in January it is important to let them know where we, as their constituents, stand. Please, if you feel that you would like to help support our efforts see the instructions & form letter included here and on our website.

We will be around forever and are just going through the pangs of change until we become the new, hopefully improved, Arizona Adopt a Greyhound. Hug those hounds extra close for the holiday and we will see you in 2010.

In service to the hounds,

Kari

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**Helping with the Legislative campaign:**

Each of us has 2 members of the State House of Representatives and 1

member of the State Senate that represents the district where we live. It would be best to make your appeal to all 3 representatives.

If you don't know who your representatives are, you can go to [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov) and choose the second item under FAQ, "How do I find my Legislators?" That link will take you to another link that takes you to a map. Enter your FULL address and zip code and it will tell you which District you are in. Then you can link to the members list, [www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp](http://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp).

From there you will have the names of your representatives (3) as well as the mailing address, email address or fax so you can choose your preferred method of communication.

Here is a sample of what you can say – you may just copy and paste or merge with your personal thoughts. Don't forget to fill in the proper name(s) and District # if you use the copy & paste version.

Dear xxxx:

As a voting member of District xx who is concerned about the economic issues facing our state, I would like to encourage you to consider alternative sources of revenue.

I am very much in support of gaming at the race tracks as a source of revenue for the state. Not only would this "voluntary tax" generate needed income for the state but the growth in the racing industry would provide jobs and purchasing across many other aspects of the economy. The model of a "racino" has proved to be a win-win for the state and the racing industry in areas where this is already a reality.

Thank you for your support of this idea for Arizona.

Sincerely,

Xxxx

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## **An article for everyone**

***Help! I think my Greyhound has separation anxiety!!***

**Written by: Sam Kabbel, CPDT-KA, President, Pet Behavior Solutions**

**Newly adopted pets may be more prone to adjustment issues in their new home. Greyhounds aren't much different than other dogs in their likelihood of having adjustment issues following adoption. Greyhounds are different from other dogs in that if they are newly retired everything is new to them! They have likely never been in a home before and their entire routine is broken and completely foreign to them! Often times with greyhounds, they attach quickly to their humans as their source of security while they are negotiating the environment and learning the routine. With most greyhounds, they adjust quite readily but in some cases, greyhounds can become anxious and inconsolable when their owners leave. This article is designed to help you identify whether or not your greyhound may have separation anxiety. It will give you some general guidelines to help your grey to adjust and tolerate being separated from you.**

### **What is Separation Anxiety?**

**Separation anxiety describes dogs that are overly attached or dependent on family members. They become extremely anxious and show distress behaviors of vocalization, destruction, house-soiling or inactivity when separated from the owners. Most dogs with separation anxiety try to remain close to their owners and become increasingly anxious the greater the separation. They may follow the owners from room to room and begin to display signs of anxiety as soon as the owners prepare to leave. Some of these dogs crave a great deal of physical contact and attention from their owners and can be demanding. During departures or separations they may begin to salivate or pant profusely, vocalize, eliminate, refuse to eat, become destructive or become quiet and withdrawn. Most often these behaviors occur within about 30 minutes of the owner's departure. While typically the behavior occurs each and every time the owner leaves, it can only happen on selected departures, such as work-day departures, or when the owner leaves again after coming home from work.**

**Many dogs enjoy chewing and engage in the behavior when they have nothing better to keep them occupied. House-soiling may be due to medical problems, leaving the dog alone for longer than it can control its bladder, or inadequate house-training. Vocalization may be due to territorial intrusion by strangers or other animals and can be a rewarded behavior if the dog receives any form of attention when it vocalizes or rewarded by the stimulus leaving. Some dogs will attempt to escape or become extremely anxious when confined, so that**

destructiveness or house-soiling when a dog is locked up in a crate, basement, or laundry room, may be due to confinement or barrier anxiety and associated attempts at escape. In addition, noise phobias such as a thunderstorm that passes through during the owner's absence, may lead to marked destructiveness, house-soiling, salivation and vocalization.

**What can I do immediately to prevent damage?**

This is an extremely difficult question. The goal of treatment is to reduce your pet's level of anxiety by training it to feel comfortable in your absence. This can be a long intensive process. Yet, most owners will need to deal with the damage or vocalization immediately. During initial retraining it may be best to hire a dog sitter, take the dog to work, find a friend to care for the dog for the day, board the dog for the day, or arrange to take some time off from work to retrain the dog. Crate training or dog proofing techniques may work especially for those dogs that already have an area where they are used to being confined. Crates should be used with caution however with dogs that have separation anxiety and/or also have barrier frustrations because they can severely injure themselves attempting to get out of a crate.

**What should be done prior to departures?**

Before any lengthy departure, provide a vigorous session of play and exercise. This not only helps to reduce some of the dog's energy and tire it out, but also provides a period of attention. A brief training session can also be a productive way to further interact and "work" with your dog. For the final 15-30 minutes prior to departure, the dog should be ignored. The key is to avoid as many of the departure signals as possible, so that the dog's anxiety doesn't heighten, even before the owner leaves. Brushing teeth, changing into work clothes, or collecting keys, purse, or briefcase are all routines that might be able to be performed out of sight of the dog. As you depart, the dog should be kept busy and occupied, and preferably out of sight, so that there is little or no anxiety. Giving favored treats and food for departure time (and taking them away when you are at home) can help keep the dog distracted and perhaps "enjoying himself" while you leave. Dogs that are highly stimulated by food may become so intensively occupied in a peanut butter or dog food stuffed dog toy, a new chew bone, or some frozen dog treats, that they may not even notice you leave. Be certain that the distraction devices last as long as possible so that the dog continues to occupy its time until you are "long gone". Frozen treats placed in the dog's food bowl, toys that are tightly stuffed with goodies, toys that are designed to require manipulation and work to obtain the food reward, toys that can maintain lengthy chewing, and timed feeders that open throughout the day are a few suggestions. Naturally, food will not be effective for dogs that will not eat when the owner is preparing to leave. If you have multiple dogs, you should take caution about competitive situations with food and treats.

**What should I do when I come home?**

At homecomings, ignore your dog until he calms and settles down.

**Take this time to get changed, check your e-mail or read your mail. When he has calmed from his initial reaction, then you may calmly greet him. Exuberant greetings or any type of punishment for misbehavior will only serve to heighten the dog's anxiety surrounding homecomings.**

**None of this is helping, what should I do?**

**Sometimes, a dog's anxiety is so severe that none of these things work. If this is the case, you should contact Pet Behavior Solutions or another behavior expert, or your veterinarian. You will likely need a systematic protocol to desensitize your dog to departures and separation from you. These protocols will contain exercises designed to teach your dog to relax and accept longer periods of separation from you. These protocols should be specifically designed for your family, environment, routine, and your dog. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at all. I can be reached at [sam@petbehaviorsolutions.com](mailto:sam@petbehaviorsolutions.com) or at 602-324-8948.**

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## **Dog Parks**

**Should we let them run in dog parks, or should we not let them run in dog parks!? That is the question AAGI is asked over and over again.**

In general our response has been that we **don't recommend it**, although' the greyhounds love it, and it can be a great experience for both of you there are still many areas of concern.

- You don't know the other pet owners. Many people find dog parks to be great social events and they spend too much time socializing and not enough time supervising their dogs. Like children unattended on a playground, unsupervised dogs can get into trouble. If you go — WATCH closely and leave if there is a trouble maker.
- You don't know if their dog's vaccinations are current, or if they have ever been vaccinated. If your dog is current on it's vaccinations it is unlikely that they will catch anything, but they could be exposed to some mutant strain of distemper, parvo, or corona virus that has become resistant to antibiotics.
- You don't know the personalities of the other dogs or who's aggressive and who's not. This goes with the issue of "paying attention" but you also don't want one of your dogs to give the wrong "doggie signal" and suddenly get attacked. Vet services aren't cheap, and treatment for one dog bite can run up a big



bill. Greyhounds, with their thin-skin, are not equipped for fighting and a little cut can triple in size (and thereby triple your vet bill.)

- Greyhounds are racers — not hockey players. Your greyhound likes to run — by himself or with others but they don't enjoy the crash-bang games played by many other large breeds. And they are not very well protected in those games and can sustain injury. If the dog park is crowded with these hockey-players in dog suits — go home and come back on a safer day
- You don't know when someone will unwittingly release their small, white fluffy pooch to streak across the dog park. But as greyhound owner you know your greyhound has been specifically bred as hunters for thousands of years and as racing machines for many, many decades. You know that **any** moving object, whether it is a paper bag or another dog, can trigger their hunting instincts and that running white ball of fur will be more than they can resist. You know their little feet can carry them one half mile away from me in 30 seconds. No matter how sweet and loving they are at home, I know that I can never trust them 100% in a setting that simulates racing or hunting. **Always muzzle your greyhound at the dog park.**

"But they love to run!!" everybody tells us. True, and in a supervised setting it is wonderful to be able to allow them to. Just use lots of common sense and pay attention to what is going on around your greyhound. Go during "non-peak" times.



*Please check us out on Yahoo.com too - <http://groups.yahoo.com> a good place to post pictures and talk about your greyhound.*

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## **Events**

AAGI has several things coming up that might be of interest to you:

### **Saturday January 30, 2010 Anthem Event from 10-3**

We did this last year too – it is in conjunction with Pets911 and will be held in a park Gavilan Park Rarkway in Anthem. We will have a booth and we need people to show their hounds and talk to people about what great pets they make. There will be shifts available hopefully each about 2 hours long, depends on how many people will volunteer. Please let me know how many hounds you will bring.

## **Lost Dutchman Days Parade 2010 – Treasure the Children – Saturday February 27, 2010**

The parade starts at 9am but we must be in line by 8:30 at the latest. We always have a good time, come join us for this event and let me know that you will attend please. The staging area will be located at 112 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in a dirt lot on the east side of Idaho Road between Old West Highway & Junction.

## **PetsMart Charity Walk Sunday February 21, 2010 Tempe Town Lakes**

Last year was the first year for this and we had a late start but we made about \$1900.00 for AAGI. We have a walk team and they collect pledges and participate in the event. We keep 100% of the funds raised by our participants. It is our chance to raise a lot of money for AAGI and the hounds. There will be a website up soon for you to join the team, it will be listed on our website plus I will send out that information. I hope that everyone will join in. If you are not a walker you can just pledge money from yourself and family or from donations that you have collected. We will also have a booth that day. Last year we shared the booth with Saint Bernards, talk about big. You can register for this event is at [www.mypetwalk.org](http://www.mypetwalk.org) – or information at <http://www.petsmartcharities.org/petwalk/index.php> please come and help us make this a big success. Our team is AAGI under Sharon Diebel.

## **Fountain Hills Great Fair Friday 26 – Sunday February 28, 2010 10am-5pm all days**

As always we will have a booth and the need for lots of help. We ALWAYS get adoptions from being seen out in Fountain Hills and the hounds really love the attention. I especially need help on Friday but will take what you can give me. Please let me know how many hounds will attend and the best time for you. This last Art & Craft Fair the “Donation Jackets” brought AAGI \$1000.00 – it is fun to watch people put money in those jackets and the hounds seem to know what they are doing.

Please email Sharon if you are interested in joining in at event, we would be more than happy for you to join in. All schedules will be emailed to participants about a week prior to the event. Please don't forget to include your name in your answer and

how many dogs will be attending and your best time this makes it so much easier for me. Also please be sure you can attend before committing. I realise that things come up unexpected but everyone is counting on your attendance.

If you hear of something that AAGI might participate in please let me know.

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*I would like to remind everyone that if you change your email address please let us know.If I have emails bounce many times I delete them and you don't want to miss out on the AAGI news.*

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**AVAILABLE GREYHOUNDS**



**Name:** Antwan  
**Age:** 5 years 0 months  
**Color:** Fawn  
**Gender:** Male  
**Weight:** 70 pounds  
**Cats:** NO CATS  
**Racing Name:** Coldwater Antwan  
**Kennel:** Gray Kennel  
**Reason Retired:** Broken hock  
**Became available:** 2/16/09

I am a foster home. I am a happy, friendly and playful boy. I really like people and have learned to be a well behaved (most of the time) and loving pet. My leg doesn't bother me and I use it more all the time. I have some food allergies and am on a raw food diet and doing very well. AAGI will share the costs of my diet with my new family but I will need to go to a family that won't be tempted to feed me extra goodies.

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**Name:** Blaze

**Age:** 8 years 4 months

**Color:** Brindle

**Gender:** Male

**Weight:** 69 pounds

**Cats:** CATS D

**Racing Name:** Brown Sugar

**Kennel:** Erwin Kennel

**Reason Retired:** Rear muscle

**Became available:** Returned 6/18/09

I am in a foster home. I am a very sweet boy who has lived with children and who likes people a lot. My family returned me because they said I was barking and misbehaving but my foster family has seen that I am a good boy. I will make a delightful pet.



**Name:** Station

**Age:** 4 years 6 months

**Color:** Red Brindle

**Gender:** Male

**Weight:** 64 pounds

**Cats:** CATS C

**Racing Name:** Savvy Station

**Kennel:** Gray Kennel

**Reason Retired:** Broken Hock

**Became available:** 9/22/09

I am in a foster home. I am a pretty boy with my grey face and am also

very sweet and loving. I am happy and like to play. My leg only bothers me when I run and it doesn't hurt, just slows me down. When I'm excited I pull on my leash but I'll learn not to. I have learned the dog door and get along great with everyone in my foster home.

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**Name:** Shaggy  
**Age:** 5 years 3 months  
**Color:** Red  
**Gender:** Male  
**Weight:** 75 pounds  
**Cats:** NO CATS  
**Racing Name:** RD's Shaggy  
**Kennel:** Dorsey Kennel  
**Reason Retired:** Age  
**Became available:** 5/01/09

I am in a foster home. I am a handsome lad who is very friendly and sweet. I wag a lot and like to play and will be a great pet.



**Check out our website regularly because we are always getting new dogs. They are updated once a week.**

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Foxy Lady  
Coldwater Foya, 09/00 - 10/09  
Waiting for Esther Marie & Duane Capps

Elvis  
RD's Grbac, 11/98 - 11/09  
Waiting for Michael & Audrey Goick

Triple  
Slacker Nichols, 06/98 - 10/09  
Waiting for Danielle Smethurst &  
Shad Baloun

Sadie  
PF's Keepsake, 07/99 - 11/09  
Waiting for Janice & David Bohman



Pigley  
CS Kaleidoscope, 06/97 - 10/09  
Waiting for Jennifer & Scott Robinson

Duster  
RD's Duster, 03/99 - 10/09  
Waiting for Liz George

Nellie  
Riverboat Belle, 03/00 - 10/09  
Waiting for Danielle Smethurst &  
Shad Baloun

Bear  
Johnnythedriver, 08/98 - 12/09  
Waiting for Tony & Ellen Festa

Ginger  
MRs Legend, crossed 10/09  
Waiting for Terry & RoseAnn Wishner

Cleo  
Diehard Wanda, 07/97 - 10/09  
Waiting for JoAnne Dukeshire &  
Guy Potucek

Dublin aka "Beast"  
crossed 10/09  
Waiting for Anna & Ken Brown



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2009 - Volume 4, Oct / Nov pups

## **PetsMart - PetCo - Bookman's PR Schedule**

### **1st Weekend**

PetsMart Paradise Valley

10825 N Tatum Blvd Sat 2-4pm

PetCo – Fountain Hills

16825 E Shea Blvd #105 Sat 1-3pm

PetsMart 91<sup>st</sup> Ave & Peoria

9960 N 91<sup>st</sup> Ave Sun 11-1pm

PetsMart – Queen Creek

Ellsworth/Rittenhouse Sat 1-3pm

PetsMart Northwest – I-17 & Beardsley

2901 West Agua Fria Fwy Sun 1-3pm

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend**

Bookman's – Phoenix

19<sup>th</sup> Ave & Northern Sat 1-3pm

PetsMart Camelback

1949 E Camelback Road Sat 1-3pm

PetsMart – North Phoenix

7077 Mayo Blvd #140 Sat 11-1pm

PetsMart Surprise – Grand Ave & Bell Rd

13764 W Bell Rd Sat 1-3pm

PetCo – Fulton Ranch

4228 S. Arizona Ave Sat 2-4pm

PetsMart – Mesa-Gilbert

4920 S Power Rd Sun 1-3pm

PetsMart Superstition Springs

6932 East Hampton Ave Sun 1-3pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend**

PetsMart Arrowhead

7292 West Bell Rd Sat 1-3pm

PetCo – Tempe

1835 E Guadalupe Rd #112 Sun 1-3pm

PetsMart Chandler – 54<sup>th</sup> St & Ray

855 N 54<sup>th</sup> Street Sun 1-3pm

PetCo – Mesa #2

2090 S Power Rd Sun 11-1pm

PetsMart – Buckeye

466 South Watson Road Sun 1:30-3:30pm

Bookman's – Mesa

1056 S Country Club Dr Sat 1-3pm

Southern & Country Club

PetsMart – Lake Pleasant

25372 N Lake Pleasant Rd Sat 11-1pm

## **4<sup>th</sup> Weekend**

PetsMart Bell Road

17035 N 7<sup>th</sup> Ave                      Sat 1-3pm

PetsMart – Stapley & Baseline

1733 South Stapley Drive              Sun 1-3pm

PetsMart – Power & McKellips

6632 East McKellips              Sun 1-3pm

PetsMart – Scottsdale & Shea

10030 North 90<sup>th</sup> Street              Sun 1-3pm

PetsMart – Chandler & Loop 101

3840 W Chandler Blvd              Sun 1-3pm

PetsMart – Signal Butte & 60

1858 S Signal Butte Rd              Sun 10-12noon

PetsMart – Dysart Rd & I-10

1561 N Dysart Rd              Sat 1-3pm