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needle **nose** news

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From the President ...

Twenty-two greyhounds have found their forever homes so far in 2011. The dogs we have been placing have done very well in their new homes; I think their transitions have been so smooth because of our wonderful foster families helping them adjust. While being fostered, they learn from the foster families' own greyhounds and that definitely helps with their next transition. THANK YOU foster families! As you can tell from all the adoptions, the M&G reps have been very busy promoting the breed. Stop by and help out, your hounds will enjoy it. THANK YOU, Reps!

I continue to be amazed at all the support our families give GAGC! *Your* organization is greyt and I am so honored to be part of it. Got to admit, it is very overwhelming at times, but all I have to do is call and someone steps up to help!

Event season has begun. Hope you and your greyhounds can attend some of the events this year. Please



mark your calendars now and bring your pups to visit at the events. I really hope all of you can make the #1 event of the year, the GAGC Family Picnic, May 28 at Keehner Park in West Chester from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We have two shelters reserved this year, lots of space to set up your lawn chairs and enjoy the day. Come meet new and old friends. The dogs love this day; it's my favorite day of the year too! *Kathy* and I always have the best feeling looking around at all the happy families and happy dogs. It's still in the planning stages, so if you have an idea or suggestion feel free to pass it to me.

In this issue ...

Greyt Health & Safety	2-3
News and Events	4-8
Donations	8
Foster Information	9
Recent Adoptions	9
Condolences	10-13
Show Your Support	13
Upcoming events	14

Stay in touch — I LOVE to hear stories of your greyhounds!

Brenda

Adopting a retired racer: \$225 ... Having a friend for life: Priceless!

Greyt Health & Safety

Top 10 Pet Toxins of 2010

— from ASPCA Newsletter

Editor's note: We periodically remind you about foods and other items that are toxic to your greyhounds and other pets. This ASPCA article is very timely. **Big Pete** — a GAGC dog — got into some expensive chocolate recently, ate it all, and nearly died. He seemed OK initially, but according to his owners, "It was very close to 12 hours when all hell broke loose. The vet said it takes about this time frame when symptoms hit — rapid heart rate, up to 250, extreme thirst, restlessness and tremors plus diarrhea later on. An expensive and frightening learning experience." Please be careful! Here's the ASPCA information:



Both known and unknown toxins can be found hiding in our houses and yards. In 2010, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) in Urbana, Ill., fielded more than 167,000 phone calls about pets exposed to possibly poisonous substances.

Human Medications

Human medications are once again at the top of the list of pet toxins for 2010. Almost 25 percent of our calls concerned human medications accidentally ingested by pets. The most common culprits include over-the-counter medications (ibuprofen, acetaminophen), antidepressants and ADHD medications.

Insecticides

About 20 percent of the calls to the APCC are about insecticides. Insecticides are commonly used on our pets for flea control and around our houses to control crawling and flying bugs. The most serious poisonings occurred when products not labeled for use in

cats were applied to them. Always follow label directions.

Rodenticides

Baits used to kill mice and rats are mostly grain based. Not only does this attract rodents, but it attracts dogs and cats. There are several different types of rodenticides that can cause seizures, internal bleeding or kidney failure. Make sure these items are placed in areas that pets cannot access.

People Food

Xylitol, grapes, raisins, onions and garlic are commonly ingested by our pets. Grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in dogs, while onions and garlic can cause anemia if enough is ingested. Xylitol, a sugar alcohol used to sweeten sugar free gums and mints, can cause low blood sugar and liver failure in dogs. (Editor's note: See more detailed article that follows.)

Veterinary Medications

Many medications made for our pets are flavored for ease of giving.

Greyhound Adoption of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.

P.O. Box 54578
Cincinnati, OH 45254-0578
(513) 624-7040

Formed in 2002, GAGC's mission is to strive for the best quality placements. We focus on being small and doing things right. We recognize that we cannot save all the greyhounds in the world, but we can make a difference to the ones we touch.

needlenosenews staff:

GAGC President: Brenda Pennix

Editor: Kathy Evans

Designer: Michelle Padilla

Lost the Race



Won Our Hearts

Unfortunately, that means that animals may ingest the entire bottle of medication if they find it tasty. Common chewable meds include arthritis and incontinence medications. Contact your vet if your pet ingests more than his proper dose of medication.

Chocolate

Chocolate contains methylxanthines, which act as stimulants to our pets. The darker the chocolate, the more methylxanthines it contains. Methylxanthines can cause agitation, vomiting, diarrhea, high heart rate, muscle tremors, seizures and death.

Household Toxins

Cleaning supplies, such as bleach, acids, alkalis and other detergents, can cause corrosive injury to the mouth and stomach. Other household items such as batteries and liquid potpourri can cause similar problems. Always keep these toxins locked up securely.

Plants

Both house plants and outdoor plants can be ingested by our pets. Lilies can cause life-threatening kidney

failure in cats, while sago palms can cause liver failure in dogs and cats. Keep house plants and bouquets away from your pets.

Herbicides

Many herbicides have a salty taste, and our pets will commonly ingest them. Always follow label directions and keep pets off treated areas until they are dry.

Outdoor Toxins

Antifreeze, fertilizers and ice melts are all substances that animals can find outdoors. Keep these items in securely locked sheds or on high shelves where pets cannot get to them.

If you have any reason to suspect



your pet has ingested something toxic, please contact your veterinarian or the Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour hotline at (888) 426-4435.

Dangers of Xylitol Ingestion in Dogs and Ferrets, Feb, 18, 2011

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is cautioning consumers about the risks associated with the accidental consumption of xylitol by dogs and ferrets. Xylitol is a sugar alcohol approved for use in many common products, including sugar-free baked goods,

candy, oral hygiene products, and chewing gum.

Xylitol can be found in many over-the-counter drugs such as chewable vitamins and throat lozenges and sprays. It can also be purchased in bulk bags for use in home baking. These products are intended only for human use.

FDA is aware of complaints involving dogs that experienced illness associated with the accidental consumption of xylitol. Xylitol is safe for humans but it can be harmful to dogs and ferrets. FDA is advising consumers to always read the label on products and to not presume that a product that is safe for humans is safe for your pet.

The FDA reports included clinical signs such as a sudden drop in blood sugar (hypoglycemia), seizures and liver failure. If you suspect your pet has ingested xylitol, some signs to look for are depression, loss of coordination and vomiting. The signs of illness may occur within minutes to days of ingesting xylitol. Owners should consult their veterinarian or pet poison control center immediately for advice if they know or suspect that their pet has ingested a human product containing xylitol.

Pet Food Recalls

The FDA periodically updates their website with new pet food recalls. Don't take a chance with your pet's health. Please go to the following site to check the safety of your pet's food: www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/RecallsWithdrawals/default.htm

Pet-friendly lodging

Looking for pet-friendly lodging when you go on vacation? The following web site will give you listings of lodgings that accept both you and your dogs: www.petswelcome.com.



2012 GAGC Calendar — Call for Photos

Calling all hounds ... 2012 GAGC Calendar is now taking submissions!

Send in your favorite candid shots of your hound family members no later than May 15. Voting will take place at the GAGC picnic in May and the calendars should be ready by the fall Greyhound Gathering at Sharon Woods. We will have a sheet at the voting table asking for estimates of how many you would like to purchase (no commitment required at this point). Again this year, we are taking submissions for the name of the calendar. We will also vote on the name at the picnic. Please limit your calendar name submission to one per household.

A new addition this year: we will have a Memory Page for all of those greyt friends who have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge and are waiting faithfully for us to join them. If you have a greyt you would like to include, send Angie their name and memorial date (and a picture if you like, just follow the submission guidelines below). This year, we will take submissions for those who crossed starting in January 2010 through May 2011. Next year, we will continue the tradition but will cover the time frame from May to May.

Need to know information:

- Picture size is important. We can do some shrinking or expanding of pictures; however, if the picture is quite small, it may be difficult to get a good quality resolution from the picture. Set



your camera on the HIGHEST resolution possible when taking shots of your pups.

- Candid, everyday shots are preferred. We avoid professional pictures for two reasons — one, we don't want problems with copyright or artistic infringement, and two, we want an even playing field. Here are suggestions that did well last year:
 - ▷Holidays: Any holiday (Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter, Valentine's, birthday, etc.) are great for the calendar. The Christmas shots from Petsmart during our fundraiser are acceptable as they are not professionally taken.
 - ▷Seasonal: If you have a great shot of the beach, the snow, autumn leaves, throw it in.
 - ▷Quirky shots: Cockroaching, weird expressions, funny ears, etc.
 - ▷Cuteness: so cute you can't stand it (big eyes, cuddling, etc.)

Picture formats

Electronic formats (.jpg or other

similar format) are definitely preferred. However, we will gladly take print submissions if:

- ▷the quality of the photo is good (because we will have to scan in later), AND
- ▷the print is a copy, not an original. In the case of print submissions, we will try to return them to you. However, just to be safe, we would rather be responsible for only a copy.

We have upped the limit on the photo submissions to five per household. If you have more and you would like Angie to choose, just indicate it in the e-mail.

If you submitted pictures last year and your picture was selected for the calendar, please do not resubmit that picture. If you submitted pictures which did not make the calendar, feel free to resubmit those pictures for voting.

Submissions may be sent to:
Angie Blume, 4220 Kensington Garden Court, Lexington, KY 40514, E-mail: gagccalendars@yahoo.com

Please note: *Angie* typically checks this e-mail box once every one or two days and will send out a confirmation e-mail once she has an opportunity to log in the pictures.

Please contact *Angie* at the address above or (513) 292-3367 if you have any questions.



Lost Dog — What Do You Do?

We've been informed of way too many dogs getting lost lately. Here are reminders to keep your pups safe.

- Make sure your dog ALWAYS wears a tag collar with your home address/phone. Keep GAGC's tag on as well.
- If you see the dog taking off, DO NOT CHASE IT! Call it and run the other way.
- If your dog likes car rides, call the dog and open your car door.

- Have another greyhound with you if possible to give the lost dog confidence.
- Keep a bag of strong smelling treats in your car to entice the dog to you.

What else should I do?

- Call GAGC at (513) 624-7040 IMMEDIATELY! (We can get members and other groups to your area to start searching.)
- Call the POLICE!
- Call the local shelters.
- Call local vets.

If the dog is not found the first day:

- Make signs and post
- Prepare a newspaper article
- Keep calling shelters, vets and the police

Black Collar Sets

We appreciate all of you who have returned your black collar sets to GAGC to use for future adoptions. We continue to need them, so if you no longer need yours, please return them to *Brenda* or *Kathy*, or take them to any M&G and the rep will turn them in for reuse. Thanks!

Looking for Used Crates

We continue to have a need for large collapsible black wire crates in good condition that you might be willing to donate to GAGC. We now tend to have several dogs in foster care at once (we've had as many as 11!), plus we offer the loan of a crate to a new adopter for the first month. Therefore

we are still sometimes scrambling for crates. If you can help by donating a used crate, please contact your adoption representative — *Brenda* or *Kathy*.

OSU Newsletter and Conference

The winter issue of the Greyhound Health and Wellness Program Quarterly Newsletter is now available. You can read about "Love for Greyhounds and the NFL" at <https://greyhound.osu.edu/article.cfm?id=6431>

The Ohio State University's Veterinary Continuing Education Department, in partnership with the Ohio State Greyhound Wellness Program, is hosting the 2nd Annual Greyhound Health and Wellness Conference on May 7. Topics include separation anxiety, common diseases and genetics of greyhounds. There will be a morning session for the whole group, while the afternoon will be split into owners/adopters and veterinarians. Visit their website at <https://vetmedce.osu.edu/ceactivities/conferences/index.cfm?action=coursesview&eventID=39171> for information on registration and cost.

Pet Sitters

Do you need a pet sitter for your greys while you're out of town? *Brenda*

has a list of GAGC members willing to pet sit, but we're also looking for more willing folks, in the Dayton and Cincinnati areas. Let *Brenda* know if you're interested.



GAGC Polo Shirts

Event season has started and we thought we'd offer to our families the opportunity to purchase our new polo shirt. They look terrific and the price is only \$20 (you can pay when they come in). *Brenda* will take orders until April 15 — please e-mail her size and color information at brpennix@aol.com. The shirts come in Ultra Marine Blue (a medium blue) with black letters and a grey greyhound or Royal Blue (a darker blue) with white letters and a grey greyhound. Here are the details:

- Port Authority Silk Touch Sport Shirts
- 5-ounce 65/35 poly/cotton pique
- Flat knit collar and cuffs
- Metal buttons with dyed-to-match plastic rims
- Double-needle armhole seams and hem
- Side vents
- ADULT sizes XS – 6XL
- LADIES XS – 6XL
- TALL only in royal (\$25 each) LT – 4XLT
- YOUTH sizes XS (4), S (6 – 8), M (10 – 12), L (14 – 16), XL (18 – 20)

Webmaster

Have you ever noticed the visitor counter at the bottom of the GAGC home page? Our total is up to more than 92,000 hits! Thanks to our webmaster *Mike* for all his terrific support!

Facebook Reminder



Did you know that GAGC is on Facebook? We're grateful to *Melissa*

who set up our account and maintains it for us, and to *Mike* who also does updates when he adds items to our website. Check us out — we're listed under Greyhound Adoption of Greater Cincinnati.

Yankee Candle Sale

We're grateful to *Carol* for taking on responsibility for our next Yankee Candle sale. *Carol* will get the catalogs before the end of July. They can be handed out at M&Gs or whatever is convenient. The sale will run Aug. 8 through 27 (three weeks). The orders will be processed and shipped to *Carol* in late September and distributed at the fall Greyhound Gathering on Sunday, Oct. 2. Detailed information will be sent out in July.

Mini-Marathon Heart Expo

WOW — what a terrific day on March 19! It was estimated about 10,000 people went through the Mini Marathon Heart Expo (pictured at right) and *Brenda* said it seemed like at least half of them petted some of our nine dogs: **Ty, Indie, Smiley, Tessa, Soul, Ninja, Lexi, Bernie** and **Mimi**. The dogs were GREYT ambassadors of GAGC. Thanks to *Laura, Bob, Debbie, Jami, Heather, Jason* and *Brenda* for staying and talking to families. At the end of the long day, *Brenda's Mimi* and **Bernie** were down for the count. Even when it was time to eat, neither one was begging, just sleeping! GAGC collected nearly \$300 — \$53 in sales and the rest in donations. The dogs

were grey! Thanks to all of you who participated and donated your Saturday to GAGC. You're the best! *Brenda* said if we don't get three good applications from today, she will be surprised.



Flying Pig Marathon

Register to be a GAGC volunteer at the Flying Pig Marathon. The registration form is on our website or you can register online. We need 60 volunteers to earn \$700. Easy money and lots of fun getting together! Thanks to *Laura* for coordinating this again this year!

Register online at www.flyingpig-marathon.com. Follow the Volunteer tab & Volunteer Registration link to: "Signup with a Registered Group"

Find Greyhound Adoption on the pull down menu. Type DOG (all caps) as the password.

Dog Runs

Ron and Joe headed to West Virginia at 8 a.m. on Feb. 3 to pick up four gorgeous pups from Anita at the Mardi Gras racetrack's adoption kennel (pictured at right). They picked up **Mac's Falcon**, **Flat Out Vaughn**, **Teton Deacon Dan** and **Teton Moody Alamo**. This was Joe's first visit to the adoption kennel and he thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was a long day but so worth every minute. Thanks to Vanessa for bringing her cat **Harris** down to meet the new pups; all were tested and all were cat friendly. Thanks, **Harris**! Our four foster families came and enjoyed meeting the other dogs and took their foster dogs home to start their transition to the good life! Kathy drove south from Dayton to meet the new dogs and help Brenda get them ready to move to their foster homes. We are so thankful for so many families offering and sharing their homes for these greyt dogs!

Two dogs arrived on Feb. 13 and 14 around midnight from Lil in Alabama. Ron met the dog hauler in West Chester and brought back **Braska Zinc** and **San Tan Rainbow**. When Ron got them home after midnight, Brenda (who is NOT a night owl!) got up and fed them, watered them, took their pictures and went back to bed so she could get up for work later that morning. That's dedication — we really appreciate Brenda and Ron! To add to the fun, later both dogs started rooing and Brenda and Ron's pack all started howling! This happened about four times during the night.



On March 8, Ron drove to Jackson, Oh., to pick up **Hi Eugene** (pictured below right), **Gonzalez** and **Jimbo Jumper** from Anita also at Mardi Gras racetrack's adoption kennel. All three dogs settled down and slept the entire way back to Cincinnati! Thanks to Ron for doing yet another dog run for GAGC.

Four dogs arrived from Alabama at a very early hour on March 17. Brenda went to meet the hauler in West Chester at 4:30 in the morning — it finally arrived at 5 a.m. Despite the awful time, we received four terrific dogs: male **PG's Versatility** and females **JG Lucinda**, **Ahk Carson City** and **Pat C Mollie**. Brenda took everyone home, watered them, fed them, let them out again, took photos and went to work for an eight hour day. Sandee and Kathy arrived later in the day to help out. Sandee took on the task of bathing the dogs to try to get off some of the sand and Alabama red clay. Thanks

again to Brenda and Ron for going above and beyond for these pups.

Kathy and Deb drove to Canal Winchester south of Columbus on March 26 to get our two brindle dogs coming from Florida. Julie of Central Ohio Greyhound Rescue (COGR) met the hauler carrying female **Lee Dazzler** and male **Come on Around** in Pennsylvania. She then met with our GAGC



reps near Columbus. We are so grateful to COGR for helping us out. This was *Deb's* first dog run and gave her the opportunity to see another piece of the greyhound adoption puzzle. Both dogs were gorgeous and perfectly behaved on the ride to Dayton. *Brenda* met *Kathy* when she got back and took the dogs to West Chester to meet their foster families.

Our Test Cat



Harris the cat did another good job testing the two new dogs from Alabama on Feb. 14. Thanks to *Vanessa* for taking him to West Chester for the tests. **Zinc** was a perfect gentleman and did well meeting **Harris**. **Rainbow** was really interested in **Harris** until he turned around and whacked her several times, and then **Rainbow** kept her distance. Understanding about kitties can be a hard lesson for new pups.

Congratulations!



The headline read: Lakota West Art Student Wins Second Place – Artwork Will Begin Tour. The State Organization on Arts and Disability (VSA), Arts of Ohio is a state-wide service organization for artists with disabilities. They host an Acces-

sible Expression exhibition and tour every year. We are so proud of *Nick Drennan* — this is his fourth year in a row being selected to exhibit his art in this art show. All the pieces will tour to communities across Ohio for the duration of 2011. *Nick's* piece, “Alphabet Soup,” won second place in the youth category. “He was absolutely thrilled to hear his name called. *Nick* did this piece in *Matt Gronas's* class his freshman year at Lakota West,” said *Laura*, *Nick's* mother. *Nick* and his family are active members of GAGC.

Thanks for Offering

Brenda was thrilled to have four families respond to her request for a temporary foster home for our senior dogs **Carrie** and **Otis** when their current fosters went out of town. *Nicole* was the winner! Thanks to *Keith*, *Kathy S.*, *Caroline* and *Kirk* who also offered to help out. Thanks for being there!

Donations

We are very grateful to *Edye* for her generous donation in February.

GAGC recently purchased a new banner from Kirby's Vinyl Graphics. The owner will donate part of the banner's cost to GAGC, lowering our expenses. We appreciate his efforts in helping our organization. Thank you!

Thanks to *Kathy* for donating to GAGC through FirstGiving in support of *Stephen Prime's* efforts to raise money for GAGC. *Stephen* is running in the Air Force Marathon later this year as a fund raiser. See all the details at this link: <http://www.firstgiving.com/>

fundraiser/*stephen-prime/air-force-marathon-gagc*.

We are grateful to Union Central for matching a donation made to GAGC by *Mary Beth DeSalvo*. She is a member of another greyhound group but was moved to help us financially with our seniors **Carrie** and **Otis**. Thanks to *Mary Beth* and to Union Central.

Support from Petsmart

The Petsmart organization continues to support GAGC through their adoption partners program. We received \$380 from Petsmart for the fourth quarter of 2010.

“Until one has loved an animal, part of their soul remains unawakened.”

— *Anatole France, poet*



Newsletter Photos or Articles Needed

If you have good photos of your hounds, send them in as we might use them for the newsletter. Send them to *Kathy* at koe@donet.com or to *Brenda* at brpennix@aol.com.

Foster Families

Our foster families give us the option of having multiple dogs readily available for new applicants to meet and adopt. Thanks to:

- *Susan*: **Dancing Juliet**
- *Teresa and Chuck*: **Hi Eugene** and **PG's Versatility**
- *Melissa and Carl*: **Teton Mood Alamo** and **Gonzalez**
- *Colleen*: **San Tan Rainbow** and **Ahk Carson City**
- *Caroline and Kirk*: **Katie's Countryboy**
- *Joe, Holly, Riley and Cleo*: **Teton Deacon Dan**
- *Heather and Jason*: **Flat Out Vaughn, Jimbo Jumper, Come On Around**
- *Melissa, Mike and Jacob*: **Braska Zinc**
- *Joyce and Walter*: **Carrie** and **Otis**
- *Kathy*: **Pat C Not So**
- *Jill and Willis*: **Mac's Falcon**
- *Sandee and Steve*: **Pat C Mollie**
- *Michelle and Greg*: **JG Lucinda**
- *Josh and Michael*: **Flat Out Vaughn**
- *Tracy, Todd and Ben*: **Lee Dazzler**

Current Foster Dogs

Are you ready for another greyhound? We have the following dogs in foster care:

- Flat Out Vaughn**: 2-year-old black male
- Gonzalez**: 4-year-old brindle male
- PG's Versatility**: 4-year-old white and brindle male

Recent Adoptions

- Dancing Juliet**: Feb. 5 to *Susan* of Louisville, Ky
- Teton Mood Alamo** (now **Ali**): Feb. 16 to *Sarah* and *Nick* of Eastgate
- Bohemian Nix** (**Nick**): Feb. 25 to *Leslie, Alan* and *Kate* of Kettering
- Mac's Falcon** (now **Nola**): Feb. 26 to *Jill* and *Willis* of Cincinnati
- Carrie** and **Otis**: March 1 to *Jack* of Kentucky
- San Tan Rainbow** (now **Lilly**): March 2 to *Nicole* and *Mike* of Blue Ash
- Katie's Countryboy** (**Kirby**): March 12 to *Jeff, Cynthia, Hunter* and *Aliya* of Manchester

- Hi Eugene** (now **Izzy**): March 13 to *Karen, Jason, Chelsey, Olivia* and *Austen* of Trenton
- Pat C Not So** (now **Patsy Kline**): March 13 to *Cora* and *Bob* of Liberty Township
- Teton Deacon Dan** (now **Dan**, pictured): March 25 to *Lori* and *Chuck* of Middletown
- Jimbo Jumper** (now **Kona**): March 25 to *Jarod* and *Ashley* of West Chester
- Pat C Mollie** (now **Mollie**): March 26 to *Tenderly, Walker, Gage* and *Holden* of Milford



Ahk Carson City: 2-year-old white and red female

JG Lucinda: 5-year-old dark brindle female (pictured right)

Lee Dazzler: 4-year-old brindle female

Come on Around: 5-year-old brindle male

Braska Zinc: 2-year-old red fawn male

Please contact your local placement representative (*Brenda* or *Kathy*)



if you are interested in adding one of these beauties to your family.

Our Condolences

Editor's Note: Every time we lose one of our greyhound to cancer, GAGC makes a donation to the Department of Veterinary Clinical Services at Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, led by Dr. Guillermo Couto. GAGC hopes that someday soon, Dr. Couto and his colleagues can determine why so many greyhounds are struck down prematurely by cancer and other causes.

We were so sorry to hear of the loss of **Elvis** on Jan. 26 and send our



deepest sympathy to **Stephanie** and her sons. Any greyhound death is difficult, but **Elvis** gave no warning that anything was wrong.

Stephanie let him out before bedtime and when she went to check on him, he was just lying in the snow, like he had gone to sleep. From **Steph**: "I think it was just his time. He would have been 12 in June."

Our condolences go to **Carol** and **Darryl** who lost their boy **JoJo**



in January to problems with an enlarged heart. They had **JoJo** for five years, yet he still acted like a puppy. He was a special boy and

will be much missed. From **Carol**: "We are just devastated; he was just the sweetest big boy."



GAGC sends heartfelt condolences to our webmaster **Mike** and his wife **Debbie**. **Deb's** father died on Feb. 13 after being in failing health for some time. We are very sorry to hear of this loss, but at least they have the joy of a new granddaughter to balance the emotional roller coaster.

To add to their recent sorrows, **Mike** and **Deb** lost their beautiful parrot **Ariel** quite suddenly on March 5



at only 10 years of age. **Mike** shared the following: "Birds mask illness very well, so we didn't see this coming. Blue headed pionus usually live about 30 years. These losses are hard as I don't discriminate with living beings because of the costume that they are given ... human, furry, or feathered, it is all the same to me." We are very sorry for this latest loss.

We send our sympathy to **Nick's** new family — **Leslie**, **Alan** and **Katelyn**. **Leslie's** cousin in Kentucky was killed on March 1 in a car accident.

We were so sorry to hear that **Rob** and **Julie** had a recent loss in their family. **Rob's** stepfather passed away after a long illness. We send them our deepest sympathy.

Our deepest condolences go to **Ron** and **Sissy** on the loss of their beloved **Zia** to lung cancer. She was a very special girl and will be much missed.

SPECIAL NOTE: If your beloved greyhound goes to Rainbow Bridge and you would like to share a tribute about him or her, please forward a picture if desired and your memorial statement to us and we'll enter it in an up coming newsletter. High-resolution photos are best — 300 dpi. If they are 72 dpi, then they should no smaller than 4 inches on the shortest side.

Tributes

Remembering Rio

The e-mail's subject line was "Senior needs a home." It just got worse from there.

He was 10.5 years old and had been placed by a greyhound group that had disbanded by the time the original adopter decided he no longer wanted him. They gave him to a man who, after a while, gave him to another man who wanted an outside dog to guard his house. This is occurring in Cleveland, Oh., ... to a greyhound.

After a while, the man decided the greyhound was not doing a very good job watching his house, and he did not want him anymore. That man did one good thing. He contacted the Lake Erie Greyhound Rescue group and, of course, they came for him. What they found was shocking. He was very, very skinny and for a good reason. His teeth were rotten. Over 20 teeth were pulled leaving him basically with only his front teeth and his lovely smile. His coat was especially thick, making us believe that he had, indeed, been an outside dog.



The lady who rescued him promised him that he could stay with her forever if a quieter home could not be found. She had 10 other animals including a puppy.

We were his fifth, and final, home.

I found out that by adding some peanut butter, oil and water to pulverized kibble, he would be able to eat enough to put on some weight and start feeling better. Within weeks his energy level matched that of our 8 and 4 year olds.

Due to his tattoo, we found out that his racing name was **Rio Grande Snow**, and that he raced in West Virginia until he was nearly 6 years old, and had won many races.

Our family had a wonderful 18 months with **Rio**. He would wake up every morning happy and ready to start another fun-filled

day. He was the greyhound you could take anywhere — to farmers' markets, bridge openings, picnics; nothing fazed him.

We hiked and walked and adventured. He didn't mind the cold weather, but would tolerate wearing a sweater when I felt cold. In the summer time, if it was too hot, he would find some water to lie in. He loved children, other animals and all people, even the mail man. He loved car rides, the longer the better, and he loved his toys and his wading pool. He loved his sisters, **Zena** and **Cambria**, and being the extrovert, protected their shy little psyches from children and other comparable dangers whenever it was necessary.

His energy level remained good, Only in the last couple weeks, did his age catch up with him. He had a neurological disorder that steroids were able to control for many months. But finally, he was having trouble going down stairs, then getting up and then walking. Those beautiful intelligent eyes told us when it was time, and we were happy to be able to relieve his suffering and give him the final gift of love.

We miss him even more than we thought we would.

Teresa and Chuck

Elvis (6/12/99 – 1/26/11) from Stephanie

We lost our **Elvis** unexpectedly the night of Jan. 26. I had let him out to potty before bedtime and started to get worried when he hadn't come back to the door. I thought he had somehow gotten loose. When I went outside to check, he was laying in the snow, just like he had gone to sleep. I jokingly walked over to him and asked him what he was doing in the snow, and realized something was wrong when he didn't perk his head up like he always did when he heard my voice. My heart instantly dropped. **Elvis** looked so peaceful, like he had just gone to sleep. He had not been sick, or acting different in any way, which is why his passing has been so difficult. Words cannot express the shock and emptiness the boys and I feel. It's always hard to lose a pet, but when it happens so suddenly, it's doubly hard. We adopted **Elvis** in 2004 and he blessed our lives for almost seven years. He was our one and only greyhound and such a big part of our family. He was always the first one to greet me at the door when coming home from work. The unconditional love **Elvis** showed was beyond



compare. He has been the best dog I have owned, hands down. It is amazing how much a greyhound adds to your life and what a hole is left when we lose them. I believe only a greyhound owner can understand the pain in your heart and the emptiness in your home when they pass. I'm sure we will adopt again, when the time is right. I cannot imagine not owning a greyhound for the rest of my life. Knowing that **Elvis** is happy and healthy at Rainbow Bridge gives us some comfort, however the selfish me wants him back in our family. Thank you, *Brenda*, for introducing us to the greyhound breed. You have an adopter for life.

Tribute to JoJo from Carol and Darryl

After five years, we had to say goodbye to **JoJo**, our 8-year-old brindle puppy. We found out about two years ago he had an enlarged heart; we knew our time was limited, a few years, but we hoped for more. The medication he received helped and it was easy to forget sometimes that there was anything wrong, other than him laying in fresh snow and making snow angels with the heat from his body. He loved the snow and a baby pool in the summer to help cool off.



The only way I can find to describe **JoJo** is that he was like a 5-year-old kid. Everyday was like Christmas, he could not wait to get started opening presents. He knew when it was time for us to get up, a built in alarm clock. Needless to say we never slept in. He would ride with us each morning to school to drop off our son; later it would be a ride to the bank where they always had treats. Even in freezing cold weather or rain his head would be out the window loving the fresh air.

Like all greyhounds, he would take a nap, and then be ready again to play. He knew our routine, he knew the sound of the UPS truck, the mailman, our neighbor who needs a new muffler and when it was time for medicine wrapped in a piece of ham.



Weeks after we got **JoJo**, we got **Kimmy**; both were from the same owner and just weeks apart in age. Having two greyhounds gave each of them someone to relate to, someone to steal a toy from and someone to keep company when we were away. They were like brother and sister, night and day, one liked the snow, the other did not. They bugged each other; they loved each other, just like our two kids do everyday.

After we had to say goodbye to our first greyhound five years ago, I never thought I would find another friend like him. When we first got **JoJo**, I kept thinking to myself that he was not like **Royal. RoyRoy**, as our youngest son called him, used to do this, lay here, play with this toy, he was not the same. Then I stopped looking for another **RoyRoy** and that's when I found **JoJo**. Trying to replace a dog would be like replacing one of your kids, it just does not work. Each one has their own personality, when you let that come out everyone is happier.

We will miss our big puppy and in time we will look for another. For now we will try to get through our loss. Not only have we lost our puppy, but our other greyhound **Kimmy** has lost her friend, I am sure she feels lost, lonely and sad. She will need a little extra attention and some time to get through it.

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are."

— Unknown



Show Your Support

GAGC can always use your support. Here's how you can help!

Go Krogering!

Do you shop at Kroger? Do you know someone who does? The Kroger gift card program is one of GAGC's most reliable fundraisers. Go to the GAGC website to get all the details on this gift card program. We receive a \$200 donation from Kroger each time our group achieves \$5,000 in total purchases. We use these donations to cover vet expenses for new or rehomed greyhounds in need. Thank you for your support! Here are the amounts of our latest awards:

- Nov. 28 – Dec. 25: \$498.20
- Dec. 26 – Jan. 22: \$331.16

- Jan. 23 – Feb. 19: \$405.40

This is a great source of funding for us! If you have purchased a Kroger gift card, be sure you keep reloading it and use it at check-out. If you don't have one, you can contact *Brenda* or *Kathy* to get one. We have some that cost \$10 but come pre-loaded with \$10 credit; our newest ones cost \$1 and have \$1 credit pre-loaded. This is an easy and consistent fundraiser.

Do a Meet-and-Greet

Bring your greyhounds and join us at a GAGC Meet & Greet to introduce other people to this wonderful breed. They are on Sundays at the following Petsmart locations (check our website for times):



- 1st Sunday of the month: Milford
- 2nd Sunday: Beavercreek (in the Dayton area) and Tri-County
- 3rd Sunday: West Chester, Western Hills and Centerville (Dayton)
- 4th Sunday: Fairfield and Mason

Pet Photography

Virgil Sweeden is a long time GAGC member who takes pet photos at a reasonable price. He is available to take photos of your greyhounds, other pets or even of human family members and special events. For pet photos, he'll come to your home if you prefer, to make your pets more at ease. E-mail him at Virgil@PawPrintsPet.com, or check out his website at www.PawPrintsPet.com. See photo on page 14.



Mark your calendars

May 28: *GAGC Family Picnic, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.* This is our “don’t miss” event – our annual picnic at Keehner Park in West Chester. We’ll have our booth with raffle items, a silent auction, and goodies to sell including some new GAGC shirts. There will be food, *Virgil’s* terrific pet photography, calendar photo voting, and more. Lots more details will follow!

June 2 – 5: *Mountain Hounds 2011.* This is the seventh year for this event. Go to www.gfncmountainhounds.com for details. The Sidney James Mountain Lodge at www.sidneyjames.com will again be hosting Mountain Hounds. For general questions, go to gfnccgreyhound@bellsouth.net.

June 11: *Harmony Hills Vineyards Meet & Greet, 4 – 8 p.m.* We’ll have a tent set up; bring a chair and enjoy a leisurely evening together! The dogs love meeting visitors to the winery. See their website at www.hhwines.com.

June 25: *First Annual West Chester Farmer’s Market Meet-N-Greet, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.* Alex is putting this event together for us. Appearances are being planned for dog related local businesses such as the “Dog-Wash,” pet caricatures by *Mary Beth*, as well as any suggestions made by our GAGC members. Alex is requesting as much participation and as many greyt pets as possible to join in for all or part of the event. An informal parade of greyhounds wearing their best bandanas will hopefully become a trademark of this event with awards given for several classes of bandanas (traditional, fanciest, toughest looking, etc.). Other greyhound groups from the Cincinnati area will also be invited. This is an opportunity to present a “Tour-De-Force” example of how wonderful our retired racers are as loving pets. Additional details will follow. Please visit the Gravel Knolls Farm website for information on the location, purpose and services offered by the wonderful people at the Gravel Knolls Farm: gravelknollsfarm.homestead.com.

