

THE NORTHERN BARK

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion" -- Unknown



The newsletter of **Northern Greyhound Adoptions!**
As a non-profit organization, NGA's aim is to integrate ex-racers into the surrounding communities. Each year, we strive to place 60 dogs. Dogs are welcomed into our kennel, and socialized with our volunteers and other greyhounds as they relax and adjust into their retirement years. Pursuing our mission, we work to educate the public and increase awareness of the greyhound.

In this Issue:

Page 1:

- Welcome
- Keep Your Dog Young!

Page 2

- Keep Your Dog Young! (Part 2)

Page 3

- Diary Of a Socially Challenged Greyhound (Part 3)

Page 4

- Adoptables of the Month
- NDG Pet Fest Photos

Page 5

- Vendor Spotlight
- Events Calendar

Page 6

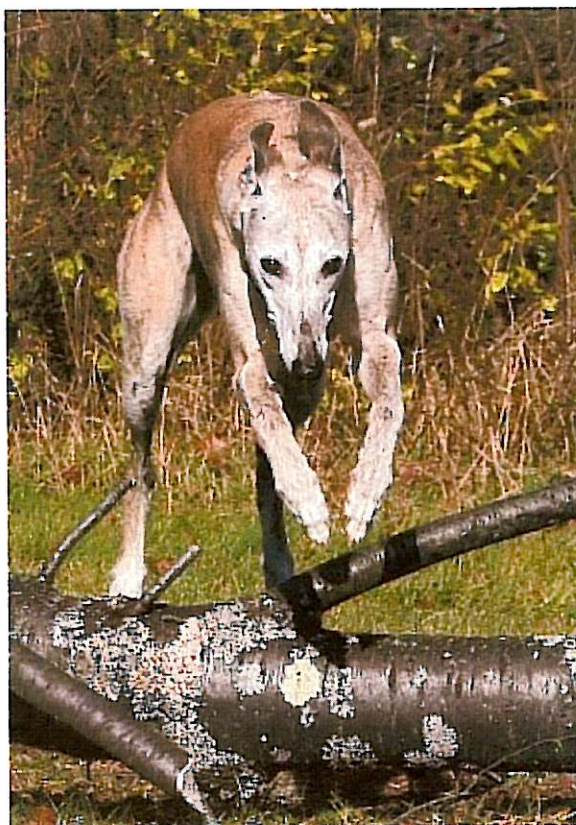
- Deer Joe
- Greyhound Fun Stuff
- Kennel Needs

Page 7

- Shelburne Goes to the Dogs!

Page 8

- Coming Up
- About Us



"Kia"

Top 10 Ways to Keep Your Dog Young and Energetic:

Know When Your Pet is "Old"

The time when your dog is considered a "senior" depends largely on his or her breed and size. Small breed dogs (less than 20 pounds) are in their senior years around nine to 13 years of age. Medium sized dogs (21 to 50 pounds) around nine to 11.5 years; large breed dogs (51 to 90 pounds) around 7.5 to 10.5 years and giant dogs (more than 90 pounds) between six and nine years. In general, smaller breed dogs live longer.

Keep your dog young!

Wellness Exams

When your pet is considered a senior, you should bring your dog for regular geriatric examinations. These examinations help identify early diseases or problems in older pets. Exams should include a history and physical examination with evaluation of the teeth, listening to the heart and lungs (by stethoscope), abdominal palpation (feeling of the abdomen) and inspection of your dog's ear and eyes. Weight monitoring, parasite check (fecal examination) and blood work and urine tests are also often recommended. Other tests may be indicated depending on your pet's symptoms.

Watch for Illness

Careful observation at home is extremely important. By nature of survival, dogs are very good at hiding their illness until it is too late. Take time to examine your pet. Feel him or her for masses and indications of weight loss or loss of musculature. Things to watch for include changes in water consumption or patterns of urination, poor appetite, weight loss or gain, coughing or difficulty breathing, changes in activity level, vomiting, diarrhea and skin lumps or masses. If you have questions or concerns about your pet, play it safe and have him or her evaluated by your veterinarian. Early diagnosis is vital to the success of treatment.

Continued on Pg 2

Keep your dog young! ... continued

Weight Control

Obese dogs have shorter life spans than non-obese dogs. Obesity may lead to a number of health problems. Excess weight puts excess stress on your dog's heart. When the heart doesn't function properly, other organs may suffer including the brain, lungs, liver and kidneys. Over time, these problems may become severe enough to cause life-threatening conditions.

Keep Close Tabs

In general, "outdoor" free roaming dogs have shorter lives than indoor animals. Infectious diseases, poisonings and trauma are common killers. Senior dogs have decreased reflexes and may not see and hear as well as they used to. This makes them vulnerable to outside dangers such as predators or cars. Keep dogs on leashes or in fenced-in yards.

Monitor Your Environment

Keep poisons up and out of your dog's reach. Common toxins include antifreeze, rat poison and slug bait. Keep trash out of reach. Don't count on your pet to "know better." It doesn't take a large amount of a dangerous substance to make your dog seriously ill.

Nutrition

Feed your pet a premium high quality diet supplements such as Hill's Science Diet®, Iams® or Eukanuba®. Feed low fat and high fiber foods since high fat and/or low fiber foods are thought to decrease life expectancy. Minimize treats and make them nutritious and low in calories. Air-popped popcorn is often a good treat for dogs. With your veterinarian, you should discuss the merits of a diet formulation for your senior dog.

Exercise

Exercise helps to maintain a healthy body weight, strengthens joints and muscles and provides mental stimulation for your dog.

Spay and Neuter

Spayed and neutered dogs tend to have fewer health problems. Spaying is the removal of the ovaries and uterus. Without these organs, ovarian cysts, uterine infections and cancer of the reproductive tract are no longer a concern. Studies have shown that dogs spayed before puberty have a significantly lower chance of developing breast cancer than unspayed dogs, or dogs spayed later in life. Health problems that can be associated with birthing are also eliminated with spaying. Neutering is the removal of the testicles. Without these organs, testicular cancer is no longer a concern and the risk of prostate problems is reduced. In addition, the desire to "wander" is diminished, which lowers the chance of your dog running away and suffering trauma, such as being hit by a car.

Mental Stimulation

Provide your pet with toys, games and quality time. Most pets are never too old to play. Encourage mental stimulation. It is never too late to teach old dogs new tricks.

Follow these top 10 tips, and you'll keep your dog forever young.

Diary Of A 'Socially Challenged' Greyhound (Part 3 - Continued from last edition)

- by Bandit aka Bo

----- Bo arrives at his foster home. -----

Upon arrival the back gate is opened, he moves as far away as possible, against the back passenger door. She climbs in and sits halfway between the vibrating greyhound and the open gate. Presenting her back to him she signals him she intends no harm. She speaks to him in a quiet even voice, while reaching behind her back in search of the leash. **Oh no! Oh no! Please don't TOUCH me! Please don't LOOK at me!** With the leash securely in hand she creeps to the open gate and exits. Tension on the leash does not prompt Bo to exit the vehicle. A helper slowly begins to open the passenger door he is 'glued' to. **Oh No! Oh No! What to DO? What to do?!** Bo moves in the direction of the gentle tug on his collar, and hops out of the car to face the next terrifying moment. Whatever that might hold.

What awaits him is a home, he has never seen a home before. Also awaiting him are 2 resident greyhounds, another foster greyhound and 2 resident mutts.

"Good job on the steps!" the two-legger says. **Whatever THAT means. I can smell 'others'!** Bo meets the black hound, Scott. Scott performs the usual ritual of circling and sniffing. Bo submits but shows no interest in the reciprocal sniffing. Both dogs are satisfied that the other poses no threat. Both dogs are turned-out and Bo is relieved of his leash. Scott immediately begins bouncing and spinning, bowing, inviting Bo to play. 'Whoo Hoo!', he seems to say, 'Fresh playmate!'. Scott's antics are not threatening and so Bo ignores him as best he can. Introductions will be closely supervised and one at a time until the entire pack is together.

I'm FREE! FREE! Bo skitters away from his foster mom and can finally relieve himself. **AHHHHH!** "Good Boy!" she says. He keeps a suspicious eye on her and does his very best to avoid her at all costs. He spys a bucket hanging on the fence. **I know what this is!! WATER!! This is WATER!!** He drinks and drinks. **Tastes SOOOO good!** He flees as she approaches the bucket. **Ut Oh! Here she comes! Oh No! Oh dear! Where is she going? What is she going to do? Oh dear!** She appears to ignore him, passing instead to the bucket. **To my GREYT disappointment she takes the bucket away and puts it out of reach.**

The black 'other' is still bouncing around, bowing, sniffing me and bouncing some more! I think he may be retarded!

Soon an 'other' joins black boy and me. Again the greeting ritual is played out, Bo submits to Keiper's inspection and declines to reciprocate. **I see where she put that bucket, wonder if I can reach it somehow. Sure would like some more of that tasty water!**

Lola joins the greyhound boys and meets Bo for the first time. So far introductions have been uneventful.

Before long the 4 greys are joined by another dog. **Funny looking greyhound! He is about as big around as he is long and makes a lot of rukus!** Enter Dakoda, a 95lb husky/retriever mix, hence the rukus. He too performs the greeting ritual. Ever so slightly, Dakoda postures in Bo's direction. It is subtle, but there. **Oh No! Will there be trouble?! At the same moment I hear the pack leader 'grunt' of disapproval! It came from the SHE two-legger! The big guy backs off right away. OK, good! He is no threat and so I ignore him, keeping my eye on the 'she' two-legger. So SHE is the pack leader here, ok that is good to know. She controls this pack.**

One last introduction and the pack will be united. Shelby enters the arena. She is a bit intense in her ritual. **Oh no! Oh dear! Is she gonna cause trouble?! Although it takes her longer to decide, Shelby eventually realizes the newcomer is not a threat and moves off to sniff where he's been. Ah! Not a threat and so I ignore her too. The big black retard is still bouncing and spinning around like this is all some kind of party!**

"OK", she says, "time to go in, get some quiet time and some dinner for the shy one." "Let's go." **Whatever that means, SHE is talking the two-legger's talk again. All but Bo head to the steps leading inside. Not me! I'm heading away. Don't want no trouble, just want to be invisible!**

Not working, she's coming after me. She's not looking at me, but coming in my direction! He easily avoids her, but it doesn't deter her. She slowly pursues him until she can gently lay a hand on him. She's TOUCHING me! Oh God! She's TOUCHING me! He stops dead in his tracks. He is caught. Oh God! She's TOUCHING me!!! She moves her hand slowly to his collar, taking this opportunity to move her hands over his body. Slowly and gently. Quietly murmuring 'Good Boy'. What to DO!?! Oh, what to DO!?! There is no escaping, she gently tugs, he resists. Oh dear! Oh my! Will she YANK me where she wants me to go? Will she 'YELL'?

She does neither, just another gentle nudge. He goes where she leads.

She leads him up the steps, quietly telling him 'Good Boy' **What is 'Good Boy'?** and into the house. She leads him to a..... **CRATE! YAH! Lemme in the crate! Lemme in the crate! Close the door! Close the door! CLOSE THE DOOR!!!**

OK, safe in the crate with the door CLOSED! OK, this is better. In the crate, door closed. OK, this is not so bad. OK, in the crate, door closed, this is good. Well, almost good. What happens next? Oh God! What happens NEXT!?! Oh God! Stay tuned for next month's installment!

Adoptables of the Month

ROBBIE

Racing Name: HappyFlats

DOB: November 8, 2005

Sire: Tuffalo

Dam: JNB Hiawatha

73 lbs

Robbie is a happy fawn boy with a beautiful black mask and deep soulful eyes. He came to the kennel with a broken leg and has finally gotten his cast off!



GROOVY

Racing Name: VP Groovy

DOB: July 17, 2006

Sire: Gable Oscar

Dam: J Live Wire

55 Lbs.

Groovy is a shy brindle girlie who needs a lot of TLC. Once she trusts you, however she is the sweetest thing around!



The League of Extraordinary Greyhounds at the NDG Pet Fest

Greta



Logan



Joe



Vendor Spotlight!

Wiggles, Wags And Whiskers



The Freedom No-Pull Harness

The patented No-Pull harness minimizes/eliminates pulling, neck strain and the chance of escape and is even helpful for dogs with amputations or arthritis.

All of our harnesses feature industrial strength nylon webbing, a swiss velvet lined chest strap, reinforced X-stitching and a confort-conscious design that prevents irritation!



Leash Locking Clip

The WWW leash locking clip allows for worry free walking. With a flick of a switch the leash cannot open unless unlocked. Available on all WWW leads.

Interested? All WWW products can be purchased through The League of Extraordinary Greyhounds!

Contact us at 514-239-2513 or chilidog@t-legs.com



Calendar of Events

October

Animal Adoption & Pet Fair (T-Legs)- October 4th (rain day – Oct. 5th)
Centennial Hall, 288 Beaconsfield Dr. Beaconsfield, Quebec

November

Greyhound Planet Day (T-Legs) – November 1st 10 – 4
420 Sparks St. Ottawa, ON

National Pet Show (T-Legs) – November 29, 30
Olympic Stadium, Montreal

And Beyond!

NGA is always at PetFood Warehouse, both locations Williston Rd and Shelburne Rd, as often as we have people to man the tables. We also like to be at PetCo every six weeks. The meet & greets are a lot of fun, talking with people about the greyhound, introducing a greyhound to people and just enjoying yourself!

We could use people for all events! Bring your grey, your kids, friends, we ask that you can give us a couple of hours of your time. These types of events give NGA the opportunity to educate the public about greyhounds; we also use these demos to raise money. As we get closer to winter and our opportunities for demos slow down, this is a great opportunity to boost NGA's purse.

Yard Sales

We start accepting donations in April, so think of NGA when you are doing your spring cleaning, Kathy Pecor is the contact person for any questions about the yard sale, you can leave a message for her at the kennel 524-6659. Yard sales usually start Memorial Day weekend, and are weather permitting.

T-Legs **

For more info on the Quebec events don't hesitate to call us at 514-239-2513 or send an email to greytleader@t-legs.com

Deer Joe



Deer Joe,
Every time I put on a couple'a pownds, my human gets concerned and cuts back on my treetts! This is outragus! I think I should be able to eat as much as I want. Haven't I earned that right? Isn't retiremint about relaxing and enjoying life? My human says I have to stay slim to protect my joints. What's up with that? How can I convince her to feed me as much as I want?
Curiously yours,
George of Noo England

Deer George ma buddee

Tanks fur your qwestchin. Let me try to 'splain dat hewmin behaveyoor to you as best I can.

Hewmin beens are very jellus of us. The canKNOT unnerstand how we kin eet and eet and eet and KNOT gain any wate! This makes them very frusterated. To alleev um alleevyate um get rid of their frusterashuns they figure they will put US on a die-it and mebbe sum of our wate loss will transform magically to them! I habs tried to tell my Momma that this does KNOT werk, but still she insists on feedingk me only too times a day and I get biskies wonce inna while.

The trik, George ma buddee, is to get your Momma sum frends. When my Antee Arleen or my Antee Gayle cum over they gib me TONS ob treetts behind Momma's bak. Momma!! – what are yoo doing? Why are yoo calling Antee Arlene and Antee Gayle?? Get offa da fone! Hang up NOW! Sheesh – gotta go!

Yoor pal Joe

Have a question for me – please send it to chilidog@t-legs.com and I will reply to it heer in this column. Pictures are always axepted!

Greyhound Fun Stuff!

Greyt Quotes:

"Ever consider what dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul- chicken, pork, half cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!"
-- Anne Tyler

Greyspeak – words that usually can only define our greys

Countersurfing:

Often a favorite indoor activity, next to sleeping or eating. Counter surfing is when a greyhound will reach up onto a counter (or other surface on which humans leave interesting tidbits) to either (a) steal something or (b) make sure there isn't anything there to steal. Because they are so tall, and have such long necks, this is a quite easy thing for them to do.



Kennel Needs

We are in need of support, particularly during our turn-out schedule at the kennel. Times we especially need your help are 6-8am, 11am-1pm, 5-7pm and 9-11 pm If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer their time to help Northern Greyhound Adoptions, please call Dorothy at (802) 524-6659

Needed: Blankets!

SHELBURNE GOES TO THE DOGS!



SHELBURNE GOES TO THE DOGS!



A FUN day was had by all – The day started out rainy but turned sunny and warm. People showed "greyt" interest in the dogs and everyone had a super time!

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Northern Greyhound Adoptions
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NGA is operated by volunteers and
supported solely by donations.
NGA places dogs throughout
Vermont, Northern New York and
Southern Quebec.

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manager
Donna Deskin - newsletter

A word about the newsletter

First off I'd like to thank the entire
Board for giving me this
opportunity to help the kennel by
keeping people informed with this
Newsletter! Secondly, with each
issue I hope to be able to bring
you newsworthy articles,
educational insights, and
sometimes funny sometimes sad
stories about the one thing that we
all have in common – our
greyhounds! Please feel free to
forward any stories, pictures,
anecdotes and suggestions for
stories you may have to me at
newsletter@t-legs.com

Thanks!

Donna

Coming up next - Our Howl-O-Ween Issue



**Got pictures?? Got stories??
Send them along to newsletter@t-legs.com**