

# Greyhound Gazette

A quarterly publication for greyhound owners and other dog lovers

June 1, 2009 – Issue 2



## Announces - the launch of their new [GREYHOUND ADOPTION PROGRAM](#)

The Greyhound Supporters was established in 2005 with the purpose of raising funds for, and participating in greyhound-related causes established to improve the health and physical well being of retired racing greyhounds everywhere. The Greyhound Supporters has also worked to raise public awareness of retired racing greyhounds, and to provide support to the greyhound community in the Ottawa area.

In January 2009, the Greyhound Supporters decided to expand its mandate and launched a greyhound adoption program. We are working with a greyhound adoption kennel located in Vermont to help place greyhounds in loving forever homes.

For more information, please contact us at [info@gsncr.ca](mailto:info@gsncr.ca) (Laura)

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### Who we are:

#### The Gazette Committee

Les Arany  
Melanie Begin  
Heather Bourdon  
Carol Harkness  
Frank Shaffer

### The Gazette Committee

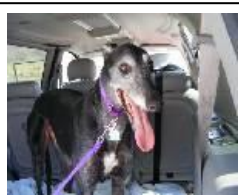
Encourages readers to share this newsletter with dog lovers of all kinds.

The next edition of the Gazette is scheduled for Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any suggestions for articles or would like to submit one please send it to [solligrey@rogers.com](mailto:solligrey@rogers.com)

Before Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Enjoy

Your Gazette team.



Evan

*The Greyhound Supporters* is proud to introduce Evan (a.k.a. Where's Evening)- our first greyhound adoptee. Evan epitomizes the phrase "gentleman greyhound" with his slightly shy, but regal and gentle disposition. Although he spent three years at the adoption kennel waiting for his "forever family", Evan is quickly settling in with Diane and Ralph, plus Olivia (an 8 year old German Shepherd) and Finnigan (a 15 year old Blue Point Siamese). Be sure to say hi to Evan and his new mom at upcoming greyhound events.

## The Cumberland Greyhounds

by [Mitchell Whalen \(12 years old\)](#)

Playing on a Cumberland Peewee hockey team; I sat in our dressing room at our first practice with my teammates asking ourselves the same question. What should we name our team? At the time, we were known simply as "Cumberland 3".

That morning our coach came in and went through some possible names.

Immediately after that he asked what we thought we should name our team. In seconds everybody was yelling out names like "The Cumberland Gore" or "The Headshots". They were quickly ruled out by our team manager. As a joke one player suggested the "Pink Flamingos". There was a sudden outburst of rejection to the name, some mock acceptance and even possibly some who liked the idea. I sat quietly trying to think over all of the noise. Then it hit me; the Greyhounds! I had always wanted to have a Greyhound. This could raise awareness for helping retired racers and (I hoped) help my parents decide to get a Greyhound. When the noise had died down I suggested "The Cumberland Greyhounds". There was then an outburst against naming our team after a bus!! Our coach then explained that it was the fastest dog in the world. My team started leaning towards the idea. Only one player objected. "What's wrong with the Pink Flamingos"? I'll probably never know if he was really joking. It was decided then. We were now the "Cumberland Greyhounds"!!!! In all honesty, we started off losing a lot of our games, but later things started going better. At the end of the season, we were on an eight-game winning streak. A few months back; shortly after naming my team, a new dog entered my life; Falco, a large male red fawn Greyhound with some funny habits, such as carrying shoes around and munching on pencils. At the end of the season, Falco came to the arena as our team mascot, complete with our team name attached to his coat. My teammates and Falco really enjoyed the experience and discovered that a Greyhound is MORE than a bus! It was great to know that I helped to raise awareness.

P.S. Falco's racing name was Virtual Tour.



## Joey – Ottawa’s Greyhound Patriarch

Joey, the most senior member of the greyhound community in the region is fourteen years old. He is one clever, tough and lovable individual.

Joey (“Imokie Chipper” on the track) raced for five years. Records show that he was one of the top athletes in the New England States for most of his career.

Following his retirement, he was adopted by a Montreal family. After a couple of years his family moved to Ottawa and we first met him when he came to stay with us for a week while his owners were away on holidays. He and our female dog Bloomers got along fine from the first moment. The two cats in the household did not mind him being around either. A short while later Joey came to stay again for a few days when his family had to go out of town. Shortly after his second visit we received a call. Joey’s owners said that since he came back from our house, he has been sad, out of sorts and unhappy. One thing led to another and we agreed to take him permanently. Mr. Clever in essence adopted us.

During the past seven years, Joey has gone through an awful lot, including an unpleasant close encounter with a porcupine, a major bite from another dog (22 stitches worth). He also fought off a serious infection, and survived cancer. Mr. Tough hung tough through all of it.

Joey is a leaner. Once someone pets him, he just leans on the person and insists that the petting continues. Joey is a schemer. He will push, pull and move his bed close to anyone on the couch so that they are within reach to pet him. Joey is stubborn positive. Should the petting stop, he will reach out and touch with a paw, requesting resumption. Joey is old and wise. He still runs from time to time, displaying a smooth, seamless stride that still looks more like a stallion in full trot. He also saves energy, by exerting no more than the absolute minimum required to get through the day. Mr. Lovable is indeed that. A fourteen year old, lovable hound.

Joey’s family.

The Arany’s – Les, Vikki, Avi and Jilli



## We’re having a Picnic .....

To all the greyhounds in the Ottawa area - we’re having a picnic and we hope that you and your humans will join us. There will be lots of fun games and contests plus prizes when you win.

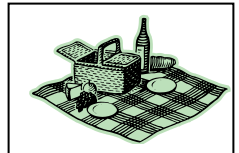
The place where we’re having the picnic is totally enclosed, so you don’t have to stay on-leash, but you do have to wear a muzzle for safety’s sake

Make sure you tell your humans to bring you. The cost is \$5.00 per family, and your humans can buy some human treats at the bake sale – there might even be some hound treats for them to buy too.

All this is happening on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm at the Dogz Canine Sports Centre which is located at 3859 Carling Avenue - near Hertzberg Road in Nepean. Tell your humans to bring their picnic lunches, lawn chairs, sunscreen and you.

For more information, your humans should email [info@gsncr.ca](mailto:info@gsncr.ca)

**Please note that this event is restricted to retired racing greyhounds and their humans only.**



## Hounds ‘R Us- by Colombe Savegeau

I have owned Hounds for over 25 years and Greyhounds have been part of our family since 2003. I was mostly involved in the Dog Show World and in the last few years with “retired racers”, the greyhounds.

We are presently owned by four beautiful Hounds: Lady a cream Afghan hound, Squirt a black retired racing Greyhound (our first one), Tasha a red brindle retired racing Greyhound and the last addition a red grizzle Saluki. They can be seen throughout our website as well as on our logo.

When we adopted our first greyhound, we started making our own collars for her. We often had many nice compliments on them and people wanted to know where we had gotten them.

After a couple of years, we finally decided to start our own little “home business”, and to share our passion for our original creations with others. We now had to find a name for it and Hounds-R-Us was born in 2006. Why that name? Hounds are us, it says it all. Hounds are part of our family and will always be. We thought that name was very appropriate and represented us well.

When we first started, it was more of a hobby. My better half created our website and we started offering our collar collection to others.

We had done a lot of research when we started making our own collars to find the best available on the market, and we still do. We wanted to make sure that the hardware/fabric we were using was safe for our babies. Safety comes first at Hounds-R-Us and Customer Service is a top priority as well. It’s not just selling to others, we want our customers to be a 100% satisfied and keep a good relationship with them. Before a new product is offered, it has been tested, sometimes modified, retested and once we are sure it’s a good product we can then offer it to others. We are always open to new suggestions and it’s always a pleasure to work with our customers to create new and original collars/ products for them.

We can customize most of our products and modify them to meet the needs of our customers.

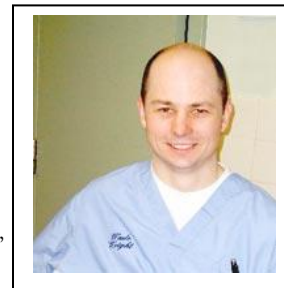
Come and visit our website at [www.hounds-r-us.ca](http://www.hounds-r-us.ca) or write to us at [info@hounds-r-us.ca](mailto:info@hounds-r-us.ca).



Tasha

# Health & Wellness

*Dr. Wade Wright of the Kanata Animal Hospital*



Every dog owner has heard about heartworm. Heartworm disease can be a very emotional and confusing issue for some owners. They hear different things from their friends, breeders and even vets! These conflicting attitudes can lead to indecision and fear in the dog owner. The questions I get most often every spring are: "Is heartworm real?" "Do I really need to put my dog on a preventative?" And "do I really need to do a heartworm test (this year) and if so why?" Etc.

In the US it is estimated that in 2004 that more 250,000 dogs tested positive for heartworm infection. The incidence of heartworm infection tends to be lower the more north you go which makes sense considering we have mosquitoes only 6 months out of the year as opposed to Florida which has them year round. Nobody has actually quantified the number of cases that we see in Canada for over 10 years however we can extrapolate that the numbers we see are going to be similar to the northern US states. Of the patients that I see at my practice, I see about 1 confirmed case per year which is consistent with what the Heartworm Society contends for the northern US states (see [http://www.heartwormsociety.org/article\\_1141.html](http://www.heartwormsociety.org/article_1141.html)). So this answers the question, can my dog get heartworm.

Unlike most diseases, heartworm is a completely preventable disease. It is relatively inexpensive to prevent when you consider the health effects of infection (heart failure, autoimmune disease) and the financial cost of treatment for an infected dog (as little 5\$/month/season vs. 1500\$ and up for treatment). This medication can have additional benefits as well. Depending on the product that your use, it can be used as an intestinal parasite treatment (roundworm, hookworm) and an ectoparasite preventative (fleas, ticks).

It is important to realize that heartworm preventative cannot kill the adult heartworm. It is only effective at preventing the development of the baby heartworm (called microfilaria) into adult heartworms. When you give a monthly preventative to a dog, this will cause sudden death of those microfilaria. If there is a large number of preexisting microfilaria in the blood stream, the death of those microfilaria can trigger a shock-type reaction which can result in sickness and even death. This is one reason why a heartworm test is important.

Other reasons why an annual heartworm test is needed for your dog include: First, many studies on human behaviour have shown that all of us do not take our own medications as directed by a physician let alone medicate our pets. We're busy; we forget; we miss a dose here and there. Second, even if you never miss a dose there is nothing to prevent your dog from vomiting up the oral medication you just gave or getting wet if it is a topical. Your pet would be without protection for an entire month. Third, if your pet accidentally became infected with heartworms, your veterinarian needs to detect it as soon as possible before irreversible heart and lung damage occur. Early detection and treatment are always best. The heartworm medication may be able to limit the damage that the worm can do to your dog's heart and lungs if instituted early. An every other year testing protocol has the drawback not detecting infection early enough thereby resulting in a heart and lung damage. If you wait an extra year, it may be too late!

So as you can see heartworm disease is real and it can be potentially life threatening disease. Prevention is easy, relatively inexpensive and safe provided that you have a heartworm test every year. For more information consult [www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org) under the pet owner resources section.

I could go into great detail about how infection occurs and the path physiology of the disease however it is beyond the scope of this article. There is an excellent video at [http://www.heartwormsociety.org/article\\_59.html](http://www.heartwormsociety.org/article_59.html) and will make you a virtual expert in the transmission and health implication of heartworm disease. Check it out!

## What to do in case a greyhound is lost?

The Greyhound Supporters of the National Capital Region have in place an initiative titled "*Find-A-Greyhound*". It is a two-pronged approach for responding to instances of greyhounds becoming lost or missing in the general geographic region of the National Capital Region, ensuring their safe retrieval and return to their homes. For more information, click on <http://www.gsncr.ca/findagrehound.htm>

The "Find-A-Greyhound" site also provides information on prevention measures greyhound owners can take to: a) minimize the chances of their pets getting lost: and b) maximize the chances of their pets being found.

# *Kasco – A Registered Therapy Dog*

*By Shelley McWirth*

Kasco came North in the summer of the year he turned three. Until then, he had been a working dog, running his maiden races out of his birth state, Iowa, and then continuing his “career” at the tracks in Orlando. He didn’t come into our lives until the following July, when he was 4½, after a failed first adoption and then a long stay with a foster family. From the first time we met him we knew that he was a cuddler. After showing us some of his toys, he stepped up onto the sofa, one long-toed foot at a time, and laid his needle-nosed muzzle on Pete’s lap. Talk about hook, line, and sinker, we were firmly hooked!



Looking back on that first year with us, we realize that he watched us closely, perhaps not quite trusting that he wouldn’t be bounced again. A racing greyhound’s life is run by schedules, but a constant is that they are moved around and never really have a home. Kasco was a wonderful companion throughout that time, good natured and gentle, but he only became truly pet-like that second winter, meeting us at the door with one or another of his beloved squeaky toys, bouncing around on the couch to make us laugh, and wagging that long striped tail around and around. Now he considers himself quite a lapdog: if he isn’t close enough, he wriggles and writhes until a few more of his 80 pounds are on whoever is closest.

A year after he finally found his forever home with us (and his two Siamese cat brothers), Kasco and I started doing some volunteer work at PetSmart with Meet ‘n Greets for a local greyhound group. Around this time, my Dad was struggling with the effects of chemotherapy. When we were visiting, Kasco regularly went to him and gently leaned against Dad’s knees, placing his head on Dad’s lap whether Dad had the energy to pat him or not. We all attribute human character traits to our dogs from time to time, and I know that the experts say dogs don’t respond to the world as we do, but I swear that Kasco was showing empathy, even compassion. I knew that we had to look into therapy dog work.

I thought we could visit the local retirement residence, but knew that I needed to be trained. Many months of preparation ensued with an Ottawa Therapy Dogs orientation meeting, polishing up on the test requirements, mentoring visits with other teams, and then our own visits to our chosen facility with our mentor. Our first few visits on our own were a little nerve-racking because of the enormity of the responsibility, but Kasco is a natural and loves his visit night. He knows from the night before when we do our big grooming session. Then, when I get home from work, and we turn down the street for a long walk, he does the bobble-head greyhound thing, which means he’s happy-happy.

Kasco’s fan club has expanded to include many of the residents of the seniors’ residence we visit. Making friends comes easily to him, but I recently discovered just how strong his appeal is. When we first started, I was told that two of the residents were afraid of dogs, and I was given their room numbers so that we could avoid them. As we got to know our new friends, some of them really gravitated to Kasco and became our regulars, while others would give him a quick stroke and that was it.

One very elderly lady who sometimes sat in the common room just looked at us when I greeted her, and the other residents would say, “Oh, don’t worry about her, she doesn’t talk”, or “She only speaks Russian”. Kasco taught me a lesson, though-he reminded me not to give up. You see, I had given up on her, but one evening, after another woman mentioned that this lady had celebrated her birthday that day, we stopped by her chair, and I wished her a happy birthday. She focused on Kasco and reached out her hand to him and he brushed her fingertips with his whiskers, and then she smiled and said one word: “Byooootiful”. She had called Kasco beautiful! That was pretty amazing, but the story gets better ..



The following week, I mentioned this incident to one of the staff members, and said that I didn’t know her name but that the lady who had just celebrated her birthday was starting to respond to Kasco. When she said this woman’s name, my response was “Oh, wait-that’s one of the people who is afraid of dogs!” Names are posted beside room numbers, so I recognized this woman’s name. We were supposed to steer clear of her! But the nurse said that was OK- the woman was afraid mostly of German shepherds because of her experiences in the concentration camps during WWII. So, here was this person with dreadful memories of dogs, but to her Kasco was beautiful. Now, she even strokes his head, and every time we visit, she calls him Byooootiful, and her face lights up with a great, wide grin when she sees him.

## *Playgroup, the early years - by Winston Gomes*



Left to Right, David with Amy and Duffy, Connie with Figgy-Duff and Bucharoo Zoo, Winston, Matthew and Laura with Hoss.

It began in 1998 with five greyhounds and seven people. They were David & Jody Vinck with their greyhounds Duffy and Amy; Connie with her friend Frank, and Connie's greyhounds Figgy-Duff and Bucharoo; and Laura, Matthew and Winston with their greyhound, Hoss.

Hoss had recently arrived in Ottawa, and as a result of a phone call from Jody, we all met at an enclosed ball diamond in South Ottawa to socialize the greys. We met every week, twice weekly from about May to October depending on the weather, and were occasionally joined by Julie with her greyhounds Gigi and their weimeraner Bismark. After the first year, Laura agreed to do the organizing for the group. The fencing was already beginning to deteriorate, and we had to ensure its integrity and the safety of the greys by shoring up the gate and openings in the fence with anything that would work, including an old baby gate that Connie would bring.

The dogs had a great time running around that large space. Bucharoo had a habit of entertaining himself pushing a ball all over the field with his nose; and even with the damage to the nerve in his right shoulder Hoss would invariably show what made him a successful racer for most of his racing years. Jody and David also had a standard Poodle that fancied himself a greyhound. He would lope around the field in contrast to the sleek running of the hounds (all with the exception of Connie's Figgy Duff that was a show grey, and had no racing form whatever), and whenever there was a puddle large enough the poodle would promptly cool himself much to chagrin of his people who had to clean him up before he could be let into the vehicle for the ride home.

As the years past, and as more hounds were adopted, the number of greys at playgroup increased. The main gate to the field became less reliable and horribly lopsided over the years, but was eventually fixed. The grass outfield was cut and the diamond surface was always well tended several times each season. We had to regularly clear the field of golf balls for fear that the greys would stumble and hurt themselves when running.

Greyhound adopted families in the National Capital area have been fortunate, and very thankful, to have had access to the field these past twelve years to socialize and exercise their greyhounds. The field is still actively used for baseball, but we have never had to be without its use more than once or twice in any season. Under the careful organization of GSNCR over the past number of years, we have ensured that the field is always left in the same or better condition as found at the beginning of each use, and will continue to be faithful stewards as long as it remains accessible to adopted greyhounds and their families during the warmer months of the year.

**Editors Note:** *On behalf of all the greyhound owners in and around Ottawa, and especially on behalf of all the greyhounds, we would like to thank Winston Gomes and Laura Simmermon for their continuing dedication to Playgroup.*

## *Healthy Hound Treats – Kate Roberts*

I thought I would share my dog cookie recipe too! I made these for some Hounds and a couple of Terriers for Christmas (used very different sized cookie cutters). This recipe is very easy and makes many many cookies. For a treat for a couple of hounds who have a thing for chocolate, I made little carob cookies, and dipped the other cookies into melted carob.

2 1/2 cups of whole wheat flour  
1/2 cup of nonfat dry milk  
1/2 teaspoon of salt  
1 teaspoon of garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon of onion powder  
2 teaspoons of firm packed brown sugar  
1 teaspoon of beef bouillon granules  
6 tablespoons of meat drippings (for this I saved the grease from some bacon that I cooked the day before)  
1 Egg, beaten  
1/2 cup of ice water

Look for dog bone-shaped cookie cutters at specialty shops. Preheat oven to 350°F. In a medium bowl combine flour, dry milk, salt, garlic powder, onion powder, brown sugar and bouillon granules. Use a pastry blender to cut in drippings until mixture resembles cornmeal. Mix in egg, add just enough ice water so the mixture forms a ball. Pat dough to one half inch thick; cut into desired shapes; use bone-shaped cookie cutters, or little stars are nice for doggie bites. Place on a lightly greased cookie sheet and bake twenty-five to thirty minutes. Cool before serving. Makes ten six-inch bones.

## *Costco Beds - is this issues Product Review - Melanie Begin*

There are three things that a greyhound does best. Eating, running, and above all, sleeping; which is why I recognize the necessity of a good quality dog bed that isn't too tough on the wallet. When we brought home our hound for the first time, his bed was of the highest quality, premium stuffed, incredibly soft, and ran us about \$69.99. We quickly realized that one bed was nowhere near enough so we ran to the nearest pet store and picked up two more for about \$39.99 a piece. Throughout the past eight months we have acquired several more, setting a total of six beds to our one hound home. So, with all this said, I can comfortably state that I am an expert in bed shopping. I know just what to look for in quality, comfort, durability and price, which is what brings me to my next product.

For many reasons, I recommend the Kirkland Signature™ premium dog beds sold exclusively at Costco. Not only are these beds big enough for even the largest of hounds (42" diameter), but they also come in a variety of beautiful patterns to match any décor. Complete with a machine washable cover for easy cleaning, and a cedar/polyester mix stuffing for odour control, the Kirkland Signature™ beds are truly top quality. At first I was drawn to the beds for their price point (\$27.99), but ultimately I went back to buy a second for their quality. To find a bed of similar size, quality, and style in the city for a better price, would be nothing short of impossible.



Dash relaxing in his new bed.

## *Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars.*

June 6/09 - [Friends of Abandoned Pets \(FOAP\) Walkathon](#)

June 13/09 - [Annual GRA Canada Picnic](#)

June 14/09 - [B.A.R.K. Walkathon](#)

June 15/09 - Greyhound Supporter's Canine Health Seminar – Summertime Health Issues and your Hound by Dr. Wade Wright .

Email [info@gsncr.ca](mailto:info@gsncr.ca) for more information.

June 16/09 - Tabitha Foundation – “A Night at the Museum Silk Fair” For information contact Paula Pilonen at [ppiilonen@rogers.com](mailto:ppiilonen@rogers.com)

July 12/09 - [SECOND ANNUAL KAH/BHRR Microchipping / Nail Trim / BBQ Fundraising Event](#)

September 13/09 - [Ottawa Humane Society Wiggle Waggle Walkathon](#)

September 14/09 - [Canadian Guide Dogs For the Blind - Paws for a Cause](#)

For more detailed information on upcoming events, please visit [gsncr.ca](http://gsncr.ca).