

Greyhound Gazette

A quarterly publication for greyhound owners and other dog lovers

June 1, 2010 – Issue 6



The Greyhound Supporters is proud to introduce the new arrivals

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Who we are:

The Gazette Committee

Les Arany

Melanie Begin

Heather Bourdon

Carol Harkness

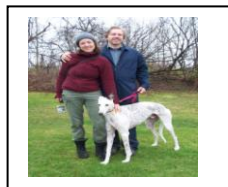
Janet Sullivan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are introducing a "Letters to the Editor" Section. Please send your comments to solligrey@rogers.com



Stephanie and Kamil were thrilled to bring Jasper home in March, although the three resident cats might not completely agree. However, Jasper's gentle nature and calm disposition is sure to win the hearts of all family members.



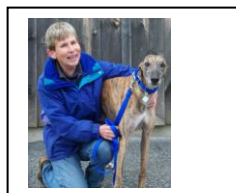
Joseph & Tara met Seamus and almost immediately lost their hearts to him. Seamus is a quiet and affectionate 7 year old boy who is sure to attract lots of attention when walking down the street. Don't hesitate to say hello if you happen to meet them



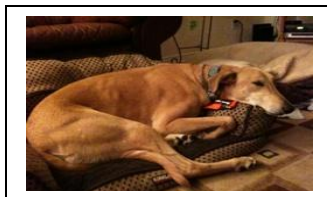
Commander is a gentle old soul who has found his forever home with the Sullivan family. Resident greyhound Casey is happy to share his family and comfy beds with his new brother



Alissa and Doug knew that Misty was perfect for their family as soon as they met her. Misty is a delicate little red fawn girl who is as sweet as she is pretty. We look forward to seeing her with her Mom and Dad at lots of greyhound activities.



Nixon is a handsome brindle boy who waited quite a few months at the adoption kennel for his new Mom Nancy to come and take him home. Nixon's new sisters Bandit and Billie were thrilled to have a new brother, although the horses aren't quite sure what to make of him.



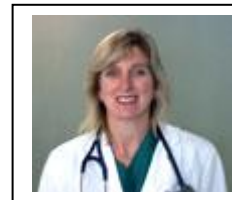
Denny, our lurcher from Ohio has found his retirement couch with Mom Jackie and Dad Scott. Denny is thrilled to share his new-found couch with new brother Duncan and new sister Dax.



Measure, (also known as Monkeyman) is a handsome greyhound boy that needed extra TLC as he recovered after surgery to repair one of his anterior cruciate ligaments. However, after spending several months with Measure, Tina and Eric knew that they just couldn't let him go live anywhere else, so Measure joined their family. Measure shares his forever home in Cambridge with Sahara, Booker, Ducati and Royce.

Canine Atopic Dermatitis (CAD)

*Dr. Diane Walker DVM
Algonquin Animal Hospital*



Although never an emergency, allergies can be one of the most frustrating conditions for the dog, the owner and veterinarian to deal with. There is usually no cure and frequently the owner becomes very frustrated with the veterinarian as they must often try several therapeutic modalities before one is successful. This condition is commonly one of second opinions and re-homed or euthanized dogs .

Allergies in dogs have had many interchangeable names in the past, ranging from “canine atopy”, “canine allergic inhalant disease” and “inhaled allergies”. The recently accepted new name for the complex of symptoms is Canine Atopic Dermatitis.

This is generally an exaggerated, often deleterious, response by the immune system to an antigen (protein). This response is commonly manifested as itching (pruritis), scratching, chewing, biting or rubbing of the face, ears, paws, top (flexural) surfaces of the joints and or the groin and inner (medial) thighs and armpits (axilla). At least 50% of dogs show these signs. Many also have at least one red ear, sometimes this can be the only symptom. Less commonly, there can be runny eyes (conjunctivitis), rhinitis (nasal drip and sneezing) and asthma. If there is a concurrent food allergy, vomiting and diarrhea can be also be observed.

In addition to these manifestations, these affected dogs also present with secondary lesions of self trauma that are often complicated with concurrent secondary infections and/or fungal growth. There is commonly red-brown “salivary” staining, self-induced hair loss, lichenification and scaling. These dogs can also rupture blood vessels in their ears and cause aural haematomas which may require a surgical procedure. Even the friction of joints bending, toes touching together or skin folds rubbing (groin) can severely accelerate the dogs condition. Seborrhoea (greasy, dandruff, malodorous skin) is regularly diagnosed as well.

Diseases that resemble CAD are scabies (sarcoptic mange), cheyletiella, demodex, fungal skin disease, bacterial cellulitis, flea allergy dermatitis and even some skin cancers.

With skin parasites the veterinarian will often do a skin scraping, these are often not very diagnostic and can give false negatives. However affected dogs stay very itchy even with a therapeutic dose of prednisone. Diagnosis is often made by a failure of response to therapy. These conditions are treated with a parasiticide.

Also the dog must be treated for skin infections for either bacteria and yeast. Often a biopsy and or culture and sensitivity is needed for accurate diagnosis and some dogs must be on therapy for months at a prophylactic dose of treatment. These treatment range from antibiotics like cephalexin, or quinolones to antifungals to baths or food supplements like essential fatty acids.

Serology (ASIGES) . The intra-dermal testing is the one most people are familiar with as this While dogs can rarely have food induced urticarial allergies (like a peanut butter allergy in a human), food intolerance in dogs is usually seen as itching or red ears. This is why a veterinarian will recommend a food trial to rule out this condition. This involves a 12 week trial of placing the dog on a protein (meat) and a carbohydrate (grain/vegetable) that it has **never, ever** eaten or been exposed to before. This can be very difficult, especially in a dog adopted as an adult with an inconsistent history. The introduction of hydrolyzed proteins has been very valuable in providing us with new and exciting choices for elimination diets. The improvements in these dogs can be almost miraculous.

If the dog fails to respond to any of the above therapies then a diagnosis of Canine Atopic Dermatitis is much more likely. This is when your veterinarian may recommend cyclosporin (Atopica) which acts an immuno-modulator in dogs. This helps reduce the function of T-cells and so decrease the immune systems reaction to the allergy’s stimulation.

Cyclosporin is used in a much lower dose in canines than in humans and so has a much lower side effect profile. There is occasional diarrhea and vomiting which usually resolves with continued use as the pets stomach accommodates to the drug. The veterinary form is made with cod liver oil to help boost its absorption and this also may upset the stomach initially.

The other alternative is to do either Intra-dermal skin testing or Allergen-Specific IgE is commonly done on humans. This test is not very available in the veterinary world. The ASIGES is much more readily available to demonstrate the presence of a hypersensitivity to environmental allergens. However these tests do not confirm allergies, just reveal hypersensitivities to the tested allergens. Dogs who do not exhibit any allergy symptoms can also exhibit positive results to these test. Nonetheless if all other possibilities for symptoms have been ruled out, or there is a reason the dog cannot take cyclosporin, the dog can have a very good response to allergen-specific immunotherapy (allergy shots). The owner needs to have a good understanding of what the tests mean and reasonable expectations for the goals that can be achieved. At this time the author has been led to expect a 60-70% response rate.

CAD is a multi-layered and complex disease that needs owner patience, compliance and open and excellent veterinary to owner communication and education to help the dog achieve good maintenance of its condition.

Travelling with your Pet by Laura Simmermon

Many of us travel with our hound(s) because they are an integral part of our families and we want them to share in the summer's activities. But, in order to make this as pleasant an experience as possible for everyone involved, here are some travel tips and things to consider bringing with you.

When Travelling

Dog tags – Even if your hound has a dog tag with your name and cell phone number, consider buying a plastic luggage tag to affix to your hound's tag collar. On the tag, put the name of your hotel, its telephone number and your room number. If staying with friends or family, put their name, address and phone number on the tag so that local folks don't think that they might have to incur a long distance charge to reunite you with your hound.

Water bowls and fresh water – Always ensure that you have lots of fresh water and a bowl that your hound will drink from. Hounds may pant while in the vehicle (especially if they're in the sun) and this can cause dehydration, so ensure that your hound has lots of fresh water and regular potty breaks.

A spray bottle can also be used to help your hound cool down. Make sure you spray their underbelly and groin areas, as well as the soles of their feet.

Leashes and collars – Ensure that leashes are properly attached before opening vehicle doors. Hounds can be especially curious when in new places, and although they may usually be very patient about getting out of the vehicle, it may try to escape because it sees something new.

Carry at least one extra leash and collar in case of loss or damage.

Muzzle – Even the best behaved hound can become anxious in a strange place or react negatively when introduced to animals it has never met before so be sure to have your hound's muzzle with you.

Paper towel and plastic bags – Any hound can have an accident due to stress, so be prepared in case you have to clean up a mess. Small plastic bags can be used for soiled paper towels. Damp paper towels or face cloths should be carried in a Ziploc bag in case a hound face needs wiping. Don't forget to have one or two large garbage bags for soiled comforters or dog blankets until laundered.

Extra comforter or dog blanket – Put down one or two extra comforters or blankets in your van or car (or have them handy), just in case an accident causes the one usually used to be soiled.

Flashlight – Essential to have for potty breaks when it is dark outside to reduce the risk of missteps and to help you find whatever might have to be picked-up.

Swimming – If your hound has been swimming or lying in the ocean, a lake or a river, rinse him off with fresh water to avoid ear mites, eye infections and pesky clingy insects which can imbed themselves into his fur. Salt and other minerals found in ocean water can irritate a hound's skin, so that's another reason to rinse him off with fresh water.

Don't let your hound drink ocean water – it is not safe as the salt in the water will make him sick.

Documentation – Make sure that you always have the following information with you when travelling with your hound and if you are staying with friends or family, provide them with a copy as well:

- Rabies Vaccination certificate.
- Emergency vet contact information for all locations at which you will be staying.
- The name, address and phone number of your regular vet.
- A list of all of your hound's health problems, medications and doses.
- An authorization form regarding the emergency care of your hound, plus contact information for an emergency contact that will make decisions about your hound's care in case you are not able to.

Lost hound – In the event that your hound does get loose, have the following items with you:

- Photo of your hound
- Premade "lost hound" poster

When in the hotel or motel (or someone's home)

Extra comforters or sheets – if staying in a hotel, bring an extra sheet or comforter and remove the hotel's comforter and replace with your own while you are there. This will protect the hotel's bedding and help make your hound feel more at home with familiar scents.

Friends and family would probably also appreciate you using your own comforter and reducing wear and tear on theirs, especially if your hound(s) shares the bed with you.

X-pen – An x-pen lets you ensure your hound is safe and secure if you want to hang out outside your hotel room, stop for a picnic or visit friends. Don't forget to bring something to use as a sunshade if you're going to be outside for any length of time.

If you set up your x-pen on pavement or any hard surface – make sure you have a comforter to lay down first so that your hound can be as comfortable as possible and doesn't end up lying on the hot and/or hard pavement.

Travelling with your Pet – Cont'd

A spray bottle with enzymatic cleaner or carpet shampoo – Just in case of accidents, be prepared to clean up after your pet. A solution of bleach and water can also be used to reduce odour and clean up stains.

Hound Supplies

Kibble – Make sure you have enough kibble for the entire trip or that you can purchase it while away from home. If your hound's kibble is not readily available, consider changing your hound's diet before you leave home so it can adjust to the new kibble before you start your travels.

Canned food – It is not unusual to see a hound refuse to eat when away from home so be prepared with some of its favourite canned food to mix into its kibble. It is also a good idea to bring extra treats in case they refuse to eat – at least they'll have something if they won't eat for the first few days of travel.

Toys and bones – While travelling is exciting for the humans in the family, it can be boring for your hound, so be sure to bring some chews or toys to keep your hound happy and distracted.

First Aid Kit – Accidents happen so be prepared. Make sure you have at least a basic first aid kit with gauze, vet wrap, saline solution and tape.

Pepto Bismal and/or Immodium – Have one or two packages of anti-diarrheal medications with you just in case the change in water, routine or the stress of travel causes your hound to suffer from the dreaded "Big D".

Hound Medications – Don't forget to bring enough medication plus a couple of extra days' worth of medication for your hound. Sometimes delays do happen and you don't want to run out of medication that your hound might need while you are away from home.

Sun Protection – Greyhounds can suffer from sunburn, just like people so bring along some sunscreen for them. Sunscreens made for children (30 SPF) can be applied to your hound's skin, but it is best to keep your hound in the shade whenever possible. The most common areas for a hound to sunburn are around their noses as well as their groin and abdominal areas. Don't forget when your hound is walking on pavement, its underside is exposed to light reflecting off the pavement and this can result in a sunburn to its underbelly region.

When purchasing a sunscreen for your hound, but sure to buy one that is non-toxic and non-skin irritating. Dogs lick themselves and your hound's skin can be very sensitive to synthetic fragrances and chemical additives just like people. They do make doggie sunscreens, many of which come in a spray bottle for easy application. You can also just use the same, natural sunscreen you use on your own body to protect your dog.

Be sure the sunscreen does not contain PABA which is dangerous to dogs if ingested and most dogs will try to lick sunscreen off.

To properly safeguard the health of your hound, you should consult with your veterinarian before purchasing sunscreens.

Eye Protection – For those hounds that don't like bright sunshine in their eyes, consider purchasing sunglasses made specifically for dogs, or a sunhat made for dogs. It could make their outdoor excursions much more comfortable.

Insect and Mosquito Protection – When deciding what repellent to use on your hound, there are two factors to consider (1) anything you spray or rub on your hound is likely to be ingested by grooming (2) greyhounds can have very sensitive skin so harsh chemicals or strong perfumes can be very irritating or even harmful to a hound. An insect repellent that is safe for an infant or child should be safe for your hound, but do not use products containing DEET. When applying an insect repellent to your hound, make sure to cover areas with thinner fur, like nose, ears, and belly.

To properly protect your hound, you should consult with your veterinarian before purchasing and using insect repellants.

Fleas and Ticks – Another summertime threat is fleas and ticks. Use only flea and tick treatments recommended by your veterinarian. Some over-the-counter flea and tick products can be toxic, even when used according to instructions.

- Never use a flea collar, Hartz products or Advantix.
- Flea shampoo that use natural-based pyrethrins and do not contain organic phosphates are fine to use (if safe for puppies, it should be safe for greyhounds).
- Advantage (imidacloprid), Revolution (Selamectin) and Frontline (fipronil) are considered safe products to be used on greyhounds.

To properly protect your hound, you should consult with your veterinarian before purchasing any over-the-counter products.

Before purchasing any insect repellents, flea or tick treatments or sunscreens, be sure to touch base with your vet to see what they might recommend.

Sweater and Rain Gear – Evenings and nights can be very cool, even during the summer months, so make sure you have a sweater or light coat to keep your hound comfortable at night. Appropriate rain gear will keep your hound dry and comfy too.

Cool Down Coat – Also known as Warm Dog Coats, these will help keep your hound cool during the high summer temperatures. It is a good idea to wet down the coat and put it in a plastic bag to have with you when travelling as hounds can easily overheat even in the car.

Cooling Bandanas are another option to help keep your hound cool when outside. These bandanas are made with non-toxic polymer crystals which absorb up to 30 times their weight in water and stay cool for several hours. Once soaked in water, tie it around your hound's neck to help keep its body temperature down.

Keeping your hounds comfortable during the summer

Most of the tips outlined above aren't restricted just to travelling with your hounds, but whenever you are out and about with them during the warmer months.

Fostering by Carol Harkness

I recently had the privilege of fostering for the first time. There are a number of reasons a dog needs to be fostered; Initial placement did not work out, circumstances change for the owners or in our case this fellow was next on the list of a kill shelter. Whatever the reason these dogs need a stable transition home until such time as a suitable forever home is found.

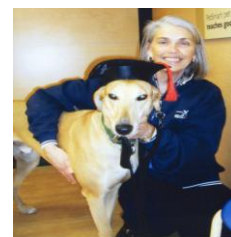
In some cases the basic care needs are all that is required; feeding, walking, playtime and integrating them in your pack and family. Some thrive on routine and may need some help and patience adjusting to your routine. In other cases additional time and effort may be required to socialize, teach basics commands even walking on a leash or house training if they came directly from a shelter.

Each dog has a unique personality and it's own quirky habits. How often does your dog make you laugh? It is fun and rewarding to see these emerge as they become more comfortable and secure in a home environment.

The most important requirements for fostering are being an experienced assertive pack leader, patience and your time. The trick is not to "fall" in love with them all or you'll be adding to your pack or finding it difficult to give them up. If you keep in mind how important a job it is to help care for them in this transitional time it makes it easier to let them go and also makes them more adoptable.

So if you think you have some extra love and patience to spare consider a short term foster experience. My advice is not to think too long as this kind of opportunity usually comes up on short notice.

Sometimes you just have to have a leap of faith. I jumped and was glad I did.



Carol with Tai (Denny)
at his graduation from
obedience school

Want to Help by Mel Begin

Volunteering can sometimes be very demanding and you may feel like you want to make a difference but you just can't find the time in your already overwhelming schedule. Nevertheless, there are many other ways to help GSNCR support and strengthen the Greyhound community as well as Greyhound adoptions.

GSNCR works closely with the NGA kennel in Vermont to facilitate Ottawa Greyhound adoptions. Currently, the kennel is in desperate need of the following:

- Gently used blankets, comforters, or soft bedding
- New or gently used dog stuffies
- Laundry detergent & cleaning supplies (no ammonia)

Also, were you aware that The Greyhound Supporters will take your old items and turn them into cash? GSNCR has a generous program with Think Recycle that helps them turn old cell phones, empty or unwanted printer cartridges, and empty printer toners in to cash. It's a great way to recycle while helping a good cause.

Finally, help give Greyhounds a lift by donating your spare Canadian Tire money to GSNCR. Your donations will be turned into gas money which will help cover some of the transportation costs associated with an adoption.

For inquiries about any donations please contact info@gsncr.com

Our own OnLine Forum by Janet Sullivan

If you haven't had a chance to check the local online chat group, you're in for a treat!

Started 8 months ago, it's already over 70 members and growing. Most are local to the Ottawa area, and southern Ontario (Guelph, Cambridge, Hamilton and London) with a handful in the U.S.

A wonderful resource for those new to greyhounds and looking for answers to questions, or owners just wanting to keep in touch and show off photos of their gentle hounds. Find advice on medical concerns, nutrition, behaviour and upcoming events. There's even a new swap shop waiting for used goods - maybe some of those collars that have gone to the bottom of the drawer in favour of others????

Find the chat group at : www.greyhoundssupporters.proboards.com

Kasco's Kollars our Vendor Spotlight

Kasco came to us in a generic 1" webbing martingale collar. He was a rehome who arrived with a "dowry", including a 1.5" fabric-covered martingale, but it had become ratty from wear, so he wore his standard issue collar everywhere. This webbing collar was black and matched his handsome brindles really well, but I was intrigued by the other one ... and had no idea where to find collars like it.

Around this time, I was starting to notice the collars our greyhound acquaintances sported. After discovering several of the outstanding martingale websites that we all know and love, my days seemed to revolve around deciding which collar to order next, and I'd persuaded myself that one per month was reasonable. Pete took to calling my quasi-addiction "collar porn", as in, "Are you cruising those collar porn sites again?"

Luckily, one of those "aha" moments happened. I probably could sew these neck-gracing fashion statements myself! So, after locating a hardware and webbing supplier in Pennsylvania and checking out the local quilt stores, I started turning out my own version of the beauties available online. The first issues were a little rough, and sometimes, I misjudged how fabrics would appear in the finished products, but I was hooked! Kasco's collar collection grew, and people in our greyhound community started inquiring about purchasing for their own hounds.

Kasco's Kollars will never be a full-time business, but it does satisfy my creative urges. Pete says that at \$25, our collars might be undercutting someone who produces collars for a living, but I just want to share the surge of joy that comes from seeing an elegant neck adorned!

Enjoy a bit of travel.....

Greyhound Events for June, July & August – by Janet Sullivan

Saturday, June 26, 2010

Northern Greyhound Adoptions Picnic

NGA Kennel,

999 Fairfax Rd

St Alban's, Vermont

- vendors, games, raffle prizes

for retired racing greyhounds only

www.northerngreyhoundadoptions.org

*this is the kennel the GSNCR are adopted from

Sunday, July 18, 2010

11am - 3:00pm

Greyhound Family BBQ and Fundraiser

Dogwood Centre,

4424 Victoria Rd South,

Puslinch, ON

raffles, vendors, BBQ, off leash runs

<http://greyhound supporters.proboards.com/index.cgi?action=display&board=events&thread=525&page=1>

Saturday, July 24, 2010

9:30am - 4:30pm

Niagara Dogfest

Merritton Community Centre

7 Park St,

St Catharines, ON

www.niagaradogfest.com

(this event to include the Niagara Greyhound Adoption charity BBQ)

July 29 - Aug 1, 2010

Grapehounds

Seneca Lake, N.Y. (Finger Lakes region)

wine tasting, vendors and music

www.grapehounds.com

Northern Greyhound Adoption – St. Alban's Vt is having their annual picnic on Saturday June 26, 2010. For those that would like to make a weekend out of it, the group rate at the La Quinta Suites next to the kennel will be \$109.00 USD including breakfast – they are dog friendly so your hounds are more than welcome.

Please call the St. Albans location directly and tell them you are part of the Greyhound Group. Reservations must be made by the end of April.

La Quinta Inn & Suites, St. Albans

813 Fairfax Road
St. Albans, VT 05478
Phone: 1-802-524-3300
Fax: 1-802-524-2387

Guest Room Features:

- Free wireless high-speed Internet access in all rooms, Refrigerator in all rooms, Premium Cable Channels, Coffee Maker, Hair Dryer, Iron with Ironing Board, Dataport Phones, Voicemail, Alarm Clock

The Gazette committee encourages readers to share this newsletter with dog lovers of all kinds.

The next edition of the Gazette is scheduled for September 1st. If you have any suggestions for articles or would like to submit one please send it to solligrey@rogers.com no later than August 15th.

Enjoy

Your Gazette team.

