



July 2009

Racy Tails

GPA – Southern Nevada



Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year

The American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA) presented Dennis Tyler, GPA Central Florida, with the Greyhound Adoption Person of the year award. The presentation took place at the Treasure Island on March 23, 2009 at the annual AGTOA conference. Several members of GPA-SN were on hand to celebrate as Dennis received his award.

Since 1996, Dennis and his wife, Claire, have worked as a full-time team to place 6,077 greyhounds retiring from Melbourne Greyhound Park into adoptive homes. They host fundraisers to pay for the medical expenses for hard-to-place greyhounds so they can be offered to adoption groups at no charge.

Dennis profiles greyhounds, organizes spaying/neutering and transports them to groups for adoption. In order to move as many greyhounds as they do into other programs along the east coast, Dennis and Claire drive 24-hour hauler trips as far away as Buffalo, New York.

Nominations for the 2009 Greyhound Adoption Person of the Year will be accepted between April 1 and August 28, 2009. Anyone involved in greyhound adoption can be nominated for the award. The recipient will be selected based on the individual's dedication and contribution to greyhound adoption during the year. For more information about the award, visit www.agtoa.com or call Dennis Bicsak at (561) 615-3916. For more information about adopting a greyhound, call 1-800-366-1GPA (1472).

15th Annual Las Vegas Greyhound Picnic in the Park "Still Running Strong"

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday October 24

Our 15th Annual Las Vegas Greyhound Picnic in the Park is on the calendar and is in the planning stages. We will be back at Tule Springs (aka Floyd Lamb) Park this year. In the works right now is a professional photographer (Barron Photography) who will offer packages of his work, Silk Roads Collars, Wild Things for Greys, a silent auction packed with lots of

goodies, and of course a meal shared with lots of greyhounds and greyhound people.

We will again be recognizing all of our senior hounds and paying tribute to those we have lost.

Watch for further information in the next couple of months.

Is your Greyhound Therapy Dog Material?

As owners of greyhounds we already know what love and happiness our hounds bring to us. What you might not know is how much they can bring to those individuals who are alone, ill or going through the stages of Alzheimer.

I know first hand how the greyhound is one of the most beloved breeds to visit these souls.

As a Tester/Observer for the Therapy Dogs Inc. I have seen my "Lottie" a five year veteran bring smiles to lonely faces and allow gentle strokes on the head from individuals who may never have responded to human contact for a long while.

My newest addition to "Love on a Leash" is "Jill" a favorite already in her weekly visits.

The usual gentle temperament of most greyhounds lends itself well to the head holding, head pats, rubs and close encounters.

If you are already a Therapy Dog team or interested in being tested and joining in on this gift of love we can do it! It might even be fun to have our own "Greyt" group in the future.

Here is just a general list of information that might help you to decide if you and your grey can qualify for a Therapy Team.

1. The hound must know basic commands and must be attentive to the handler at all times.
2. The hound must be calm when head, ears, butt etc. are touched and rubbed.
3. They must not be afraid of loud noises or close spaces. No biting or showing aggression towards other animals or humans.
4. It's great to keep each individual hound's

"personality" that's what makes it fun for those we visit. However, the hound must be under control by the handler AT ALL TIMES within the facility.

5. Loud noises, close quarters and moving objects such as wheel chairs coming towards them is a constant. If your hound is sensitive around the ears or back end, they may not do well in this environment.



A test is given by a certified Therapy Dog Tester/Observer before the handler/dog team is allowed to start observed visits.

The tester will ask the team to achieve several required tasks. The handler is judged as well as the hound to see the interaction between the two. The test is around one hour in length.

Once the team has completed the test, passed the requirements and supplied the completed paperwork (obtained from tester) the handler/dog team will be observed by the tester on three separate visits to the assigned facilities.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to be tested or already have a Therapy Dog and would like to join in visiting please let us know.

Believe me, you will get as much or more than you give when you become a Therapy Dog Team. Contact:

Dawn Barr
702-433-2943
dawnitta@earthlink.net



Additions to our Greyhound Family

Brandi was adopted by the Spataforz's

Howie was adopted by the Andersen's

Gracie was adopted by Marni

The Basener's adopted **Freeze**

Arty was adopted by the Hogue's

Sydney was adopted by Cira

The Dibasi's adopted **Velvet**

Phingas was adopted by Mary

Eyore was adopted by the Gernhart's

The Mihalcik's adopted **Gus**

Garnet Benson & Belle - adopted by Jim

Tom adopted **Capri**

Dot was adopted by the Donnelly's

Marge adopted **Faro**

The Jaramillo's adopted **Charles**

Kirby was adopted by the Minardi's

Cecelia & Kelly were adopted by the Thibodeau's

The Boucher's adopted **Savvy**

Angie adopted **Captain**

The Barrer's adopted **DeeDee**

GPA-SN Web Site Changes

Going strong into our 15th year, we have decided it is time to update and revamp our web site www.lasvegasgreyhounds.org.

Changes thus far include an easy to read Events Calendar. We have listed Mutts on Main Street for the fall, our Carpe Canem auction coming up in September and you can watch for Greyhound Gallivants and Meet and Greets as the weather cools in the fall.

We are still accepting photos of your hounds to be placed on the new site so send them in!

Not only are we working on the web site, we are considering a new logo so we can retire Lucky Dog, our slot winning greyhound that has served us well for a number of years.



GPA-SN Board Members:

- Judy Currier, President
- Lesley Cohen, Vice-President
- Joelle Zarfl, Secretary/Treasurer
- Mary Behnke, Events Coordinator
- Elaine Jones, Foster Coordinator

Working with help from so many dedicated volunteers, thank you.



Paypal is an easy and convenient way to donate to GPA-SN. Just visit www.paypal.com and send your donation to info@lasvegasgreyhounds.org.



www.LasVegasGreyhounds.org
702.392.5822

A Senior Greyhounds Prayer - Author Unknown

One by one, they pass by my crate, too old, too worn, too broken, no way.

Way past his time, he can't run and play.

Then they shake their heads slowly and go on their way.

A little old man, arthritic and sore, it seems I am not wanted anymore.

I once had a home, I once had a bed, a place that was warm, and where I was fed.

Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail.

Who wants a dog so old and so frail?

My family decided I didn't belong, I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.

Whatever excuse they made in their head, can't justify how they left me for dead.

Now I sit in this crate, where day after day, the younger dogs get adopted away.

When I had almost come to the end of my rope, you saw my face, and I finally had hope.

You saw thru the grey, and the legs bent with age, and felt I still had life beyond this crate.

You took me home, gave me food and a bed, and shared your own pillow with my poor tired head.

We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low, you love me so dearly, you want me to know.

I may have lived most of my life with another, but you outshine them with a love so much stronger.

And I promise to return all the love I can give, to you, my dear person, as long as I live.

I may be with you for a week, or for years, we will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears.

And when the time comes that God deems I must leave, I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.

And when I arrive at the Rainbow Bridge, all brand new

My thoughts and my heart will still be with you

And I will brag to all who will hear, of the person who made my last days so dear.