

Houndsight

Spring, 2006

An ADOPT-A-GREYHOUND OF CENTRAL CANADA, INC

Newsletter

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NEWS & UPDATES

Where does the time go? It is hard to believe that ten years ago on May 17 1996, we Incorporated **Adopt-A-Greyhound of Central Canada!**

Having said goodbye to a busy 2005, say hello to 2006, which is shaping up to be another hectic year ! As we go to press, 12 new 'Canadians' are awaiting transportation from the adoption kennel in Florida.

We lost our ride...

Over the years we have been fortunate to have our greyhounds flown up to Syracuse, NY. We pick them up and drive them to Ottawa. The last few years, the flights were facilitated by a US Airways First Officer who accompanied the dogs to ensure their safety. Last Fall, US Airways merged with America West. The new airline doesn't allow live cargo, so sadly, our great relationship with US Airways has ended.

They are coming...

Flight arrangements, in the short term, through other carriers have been made. Due to the uncertainty of the financially fragile and changeable airline industry, we have back-up plans in place for ground transportation. If ground transportation is the way we end up going, it will likely mean less frequent hauls, but larger groups of dogs arriving at one time. So...

Foster homes...

Have you ever thought of fostering a new greyhound? We may need some assistance with short term foster homes, as the new dogs arrive. Although we have not had a large number of homes previously, some of the ones we had now have their own second, or third greyhound and no longer have room.

We still need volunteers...

Summer is a difficult time to staff the many important greyhound events. We need your help! Our next 'Volunteer Orientation' will be held in June. If interested, or for more information, contact Lynda. If you haven't been involved for awhile, give us a call!



See where Roddy leads you...

Effective the first weekend in May, we introduce an exciting new interactive section to our web pages! A fully functional Online Auction. Initial categories include; 'Art and Posters', 'Greyhound Garb', 'Greyhound and Dog Figurines and Statues', 'Jewellery', 'Miscellaneous' and 'People Clothes'. Click on Roddy's picture in our web directory, and he will take you there.

The intent is to run the auction items from weekend to weekend, so check back often. Most will be one of a kind pieces, many unique and rare. Value of items will run from as low as ten dollars, to hundreds! Check it out, and spread the word.

You can also use our 'Cheerleader' to tell others! She is another addition to the web pages, in the auction section.

We are always looking for new things, so if you have something to donate for the auction, please contact me.

Have fun with these grey items. Remember, 100% of the proceeds goes to support the work of AAG.

Chris Seed, Editor



GREYHOUND IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

HUSKER HAMILTON "HAMIE"

BY MARION ALEXANDER

It actually all started in the year 2000, when my sister was looking to adopt a dog and decided on greyhound adoption. I was in Ottawa visiting from Vancouver when she started, with us first surfing the web then driving out to Chris and Lynda to see their dogs and pick up an application. We also had the opportunity to visit the greyhound 'playgroup'. They say that timing is everything, and I was once again in Ottawa, and able to attend the home visit. That started my sister on the road to having greys in her life and infected me with the bug.

When I went back to Vancouver I was actually a bit sad not having any contact with these amazing creatures, so I e-mailed Chris to find out if he knew who in the Vancouver area did greyhound adoption, and in a roundabout way I became involved as a volunteer for Greyhoundpets Inc. Of course, when we moved to Ottawa I became an active auntie to Taze and Becky (who is, also, my "angel girl") and now to Katy.

A couple of years ago I had a mild stroke, which taught me to slow down in my work life and to appreciate life in every way. I had mentioned to my doctor that I could come up with all kinds of excuses for not going out for a walk and he said to me: "Get A Dog, then you'll have no excuse"...

Well, the time arrived for us when we moved into a complex which allowed us to have a dog and Steve and I decided that it was time. We had our home visit at the end of November 2004 before Chris and Lynda left for Florida, anticipating arrival of our new addition the next spring. Of course, I told them what I was looking for in my grey. But, instead of a cat and child safe, big, black male, we were blessed (a week later!) with the most gorgeous, most laid back, gentle red fawn male named Husker Hamilton (Hamie). He needed a new home as his owner could no longer keep him.

He has settled into our home like he has always lived there. We have had no housetraining, cat or potty issues. He has the sweetest temperament and can be silly at times. Although shy and reserved, our efforts to try and bring out his personality seems to be having positive results as he is becoming more and more social. He does not play with his toys a lot but, boy, is he a "cookie/greenie monster". He loves to go and visit his "cousins" Taze and Katy, or have them visit us.

My boy is so 'small animal' safe, he totally ignores a rabbit in the grass, squirrels, or a cat running across the sidewalk right in front of him. However, the other day we were walking home along a walkway when we heard a rustle in the bushes. He went on full alert, with ears straight up and body tight. I saw the back end of a deer crash through the underbrush. Also, groundhogs beware, if he could squeeze down that hole, he would. This is the most interest he has ever shown in other animals!

It is hard to believe we have already had our special boy a year and a half! He turned 7 at the end of April and we hope to have many, many more years with our beautiful, sweet boy. Well, what more can we say about this gentle soul, but that we love you, Hamie.

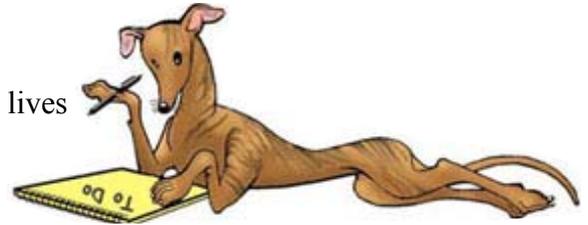


CATCHING UP....

BY LYNDA SEED

PHOTOS BY HEATHER BOURDON

Despite all of today's modern conveniences to make our lives easier, things just seem to get busier and more hectic!



Our very busy Fall schedule here at "Greyhound Central" caused us to miss production of the last issue of Houndsight, and some of the noteworthy happenings that occurred;

AAG is deeply appreciative to the generosity of **The Beatrice Watson-Acheson Foundation** for their ongoing financial support in the care of our greyhounds.



International **Greyhound Planet Day** was celebrated locally for the first time on September 18th, 2005 and was well attended by not only local greyhounds and their families, but also those that had travelled from Montreal and Toronto.



The selection of Andrew Haydon Park was a perfect venue, and the weather fully co-operated.

This event was the inaugural fund-raiser for a new not-for-profit group, **Greyhound Supporters of the National Capital Region**, whose mandate is to support various greyhound related causes internationally. AAG was selected as one of three greyhound adoption groups to benefit from this initial and very successful initiative. (See also page 5)

Our gratitude and sincere thank you to all of those that worked so hard to make this day a success, and from which AAG benefited.



In our ongoing efforts to reach out and educate a wide spectrum of people about greyhounds, and their suitability as pets, two new events were added to our busy Fall schedule. The **Mature Lifestyle and Health Show** which focuses on those 'Fifty-five plus', invited AAG to showcase greyhounds at The Ottawa Congress Centre from September 27 – 29th. This is a very well attended event, and our booth was certainly the busiest; with even some of the other vendors stopping by to pet the canine volunteers and inquire about the adoption process.



Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

We also had a booth at Bark Bash, held East of Ottawa, at the Navan Arena on October 15 & 16th.

This semi-annual event hosts indoor agility dog trials over the two days, and although the weather outside was wet and cold, we received a warm welcome from the organizers, participants and spectators.



Due to popular demand, AAG was invited to make a 'return visit' to the upscale **240 Sparks Street** complex, in downtown Ottawa, from November 8-10th, with the greyhounds.



Last year this high visibility location had proven to be an excellent venue to promote our program. The combination retail stores and office complex in this high-rise building, houses hundreds of federal government employees.

Although it was held on week days, we were *very* busy, and attracted lots of new greyhound admirers, and donations!



For the past seven years, AAG's annual year end fund-raiser has been the Petsmart "**Santa Claws**" promotion. This is both a significant source of revenue, and a major undertaking for us, as it involves having volunteers in two locations all day, (Nepean and Gloucester) over two entire, consecutive weekends. Being that these 'pet photo' sessions with Santa are scheduled in December, it is already an extremely busy, tiring and even stressful time for everyone. Without the commitment and enthusiasm of YOU, our volunteers, we could not make this event happen! Our heartfelt thanks to the photographers, the Santa helpers, the Meet n' Greeters and their 'reinhounds' and 'greydeer'... and most importantly, our wonderful Santas, who give AAG the gift of your precious time at the busiest season of the year.



All too often, greyhound families have experienced the shock of being advised that their beloved greyhound, who might otherwise appear healthy, has cancer. As in the world of human health and medicine, this six letter word has the ability to shatter and traumatize even the strongest among us. Whether it be human or canine, an early diagnosis is of paramount importance; so don't ignore or overlook that small lump/bump that seems to get bigger, or a continuing or re-occurring limp. It may be nothing serious, but it's best to let your veterinarian make that diagnosis.



One of our adopters, Janet Shaffer, after just such an experience with her own greyhound, Foxy, decided on a positive course of action. Last year, she created **Hope for Hounds** (http://www.casualbling.com/Hope_for_Hounds.html), with a twofold purpose; to raise awareness/support, and more importantly, to raise much needed monies to fund the ongoing canine cancer research of Dr. Guillermo Couto, as part of the Greyhound Health and Welfare Program at Ohio State University.

The special Hope for Hounds bling can be worn by either greyhounds or humans, and to date, Janet's success has resulted in over \$2,000.00 being directed to Dr. Couto's cancer research program.

Currently Dr. Couto at Ohio State University, is collecting information on cancer in greyhounds that will be used in a study in 2006. If you are interested in participating or know of someone that might be, please e-mail me, and I will e-mail/snail mail the form that



needs to be completed.

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH FUND RAISER FOR ADOPT-A-GREYHOUND OF CENTRAL CANADA INC. SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2006

**Champagne Brunch and 4 Seasons of Hound Fashion
Lindenhoff German Restaurant
365 Forest Street, Ottawa, Ontario**

The Greyhound Supporters of the National Capital Region (GSNCR) is hosting a Champagne Brunch to recognize the work of Lynda and Chris Seed of Adopt-A-Greyhound of Central Canada, Inc. (AAG). (No, they are NOT retiring, just an event to honour them, and raise some funds for AAG).

For more than 11 years, Lynda and Chris have devoted their time and energy to finding quality forever homes for retired racing greyhounds in the National Capital Region and surrounding areas. This includes Eastern Ontario, Western Quebec and upper New York State.

Not only do Lynda and Chris adopt these magnificent retired canine athletes into their forever homes, AAG also provides post-adoption support, and is committed to creating public awareness about a majestic breed that has been around for more than six thousand years.

The Champagne Brunch

This event will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2006 between 11:00am and 2:00pm at the Lindenhoff Restaurant (just off Richmond Road, west of the Lincoln Fields Shopping Mall and east of the intersection of Richmond Road and Carling Avenue).

Tickets are \$25.00 each. There are a limited number of tables for 4 that can be reserved for \$105.00. Please hurry, as all tickets for this sit down meal, must be purchased by Thursday, May 4, 2006. Please contact Laura at (613) 823-6500 or via email greyken@magma.ca.

The 4 Seasons of Hound Fashion

You must be there to experience our "4 Seasons of Hound Fashion" fashion show. These wardrobe essentials and accessories are for the hound that wants to look its best through spring, summer, fall and winter. Of course, we can't let our hounds outshine us, so we'll have fashions and accessories for the well-dressed hound-owner as well.

Silent Auction

Some of the items used in our "4 Season of Hound Fashion" show will be included in a silent auction to be held on-site. A preview of the items included in the Silent Auction will be available on www.greyken.com. Even if you cannot attend our May 7th event, you will be able to bid on some of the items in the auction.

The Art Show

Artwork done by local artists and others will be on display for your viewing pleasure. This will be a unique opportunity to showcase the talents of local artists, some of whom have been inspired by the retired racing greyhound. Items in the Art Show may be available for sale.

Raffles

As part of the event, there will be one or more items raffled. Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Proceeds from the Brunch, Silent Auction and raffle(s) will go to support the ongoing work of Adopt-A-Greyhound of Central Canada, Inc.



FUN DAY AND BARBEQUE
SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2006 - 11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

PET VALU™

Better Pet Nutrition

EXCLUSIVELY AT THE GREENBANK SQUARE LOCATION
250 GREENBANK ROAD, NEPEAN, ONTARIO

Proudly Sponsored by



Nutro Products Inc.

Looking for a fun day out for you and your greyhound? How about a late lunch, or early dinner, and supporting greyhound adoption through Adopt-A-Greyhound? Interested in getting a free nail clip (No, not for you, for your greyhound!)

A big 'Thank you' to PET VALU® who will be having a very special Fun Day, from 11:00AM to 3:00PM, on Saturday, June 17. The event is a Barbeque fund raiser for Adopt-A-Greyhound. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks available for purchase, to help raise funds. All proceeds will go to Adopt-A-Greyhound. Come on out and join us!

You will be able to take advantage of the free nail clipping done by the PET VALU® groomer, who will be available for all the dogs that attend that day.

Nutro®, who will be sponsoring the event, will have a tent set up in the parking lot, with product samples available. (This is the food we use for our crew!)

There will be Door Prizes, as well as goodie bags for all the dogs that come and bring their people. A donation jar, proceeds of which go to support the work of Adopt-A-Greyhound, will also be prominently displayed.



This will also be a good opportunity for families to meet a "real" greyhound, up close and personal! We will have volunteers* on hand with their own greyhounds, to answer the many questions about these wonderful canine athletes, and how to go about adopting one.

*If you can volunteer some time for this event, please contact Lynda at 489-0654. Due to the length of time this event covers, we will likely require two shifts of volunteers, and Ambassadors.



Dear Foxy!
Greyt Advice, Dog to Dog

Dear Foxy:

Last year (it seems longer) a new girl moved into our house. Her name is Katy. I thought she was visiting but she is still here. Although small, she scoops my everything and bosses me around something awful – she even walks under me as a short cut (so embarrassing). What should a guy do?

Taze in Kanata

Dear Taze: This certainly is a domestic problem. A soft touch is required – you stroke her ears and talk nice to her and she will continue to do just whatever she wants. Girls do that. After a while she will mellow or alternately you will give up the battle. Either way there will be bliss in your house. See it's easy. If you want to make life tougher, phone Dr Phil for help. Trust the Fox

Dear Foxy:

My Mom says you are a senior Diva. I have a sister named Diva. I thought your name was Foxy! Anyway, Diva is pushy, grabby, demanding, arrogant, and often embarrassing. I try to be patient and understanding but once I chomped her shoulder in frustration – soooo sorry. I would like her to be more like her beautiful lyrical name. Maybe she could see a shrink. But a cheap one. Vern in Ottawa

Dear Vern: That's a sad story for sure. But I think the Diva thing is in the genes. Your sister would need a personality transplant or some spurt in maturity. Maturity is free. Transplant is oh so expensive. We'll pull for maturity. Hounds are always cash strapped, so no therapy. – Foxy

Dear Foxy:

Haven't seen you doing our thing at the pet store for long while. What's the story, eh? – Jasmine

Jazz: No transportation. Actually no one around to drive the car. It's like they are really busy. I have been doing other benevolent doggy chores. Like you've been at the pet store! I suppose you commute from the cottage for a few hours of meet and greet? Sure girl friend! Look forward to seeing you at Chez Pets. - Foxy

CONTACTING US:

Email:

info@adopt-a-greyhound.com

Phone or Fax:

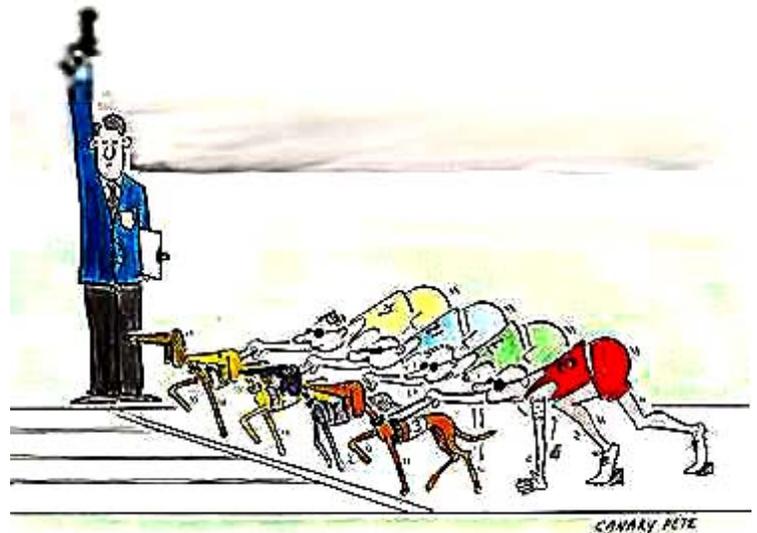
(613) 489-0654

Web page:

www.adopt-a-greyhound.com

By mail:

Adopt-A-Greyhound of Central Canada, Inc
RR#3, North Gower
Ontario, Canada
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Shipping costs are \$5 for one item, \$6 for two items and \$7 for three or more items, unless otherwise noted. Cheques, MasterCard & Visa are welcome. Use our secure online order form on our web page.

Make cheques payable to: **Adopt-A-Greyhound**

