

# Houndsight

Summer/Fall, 2006 An ADOPT-A-GREYHOUND OF CENTRAL CANADA, INC

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## NEWS & UPDATES

We mentioned in the last issue of Houndsight© that we had lost our air transportation of our greyhounds, due to the recent merger of US Airways. We told you about our options; plan 'A' (new carrier to fly the dogs) and a plan 'B' (ground transportation) to continue to move our new dogs North. Well, plan 'A' never got off the ground... Read about plan 'B' on page 3.

As we go to press, another group of new 'Canadians' arrived via ground transportation from the adoption kennel in Florida.

### Foster homes...

A very big THANK YOU, to all the volunteers that stepped forward to foster the new arrivals. Later we may still need some assistance with short term foster homes, as future groups of new dogs arrive. Considering adding to your greyhound pack, but want to see what it's like first? This could be a greyt opportunity to see how well it could work out!

### We hate to rush the winter, but...

Christmas is coming, and the 'gift giving' season is just around the corner.

From stocking stuffers to main gifts, did you know we carry over 300 greyhound related items?

Our 2007 Celebrating Greyhounds calendars are now in stock. We have also added a number of new items. Check out our magnetic memo boards, and for the bakers out there, we have a new line of American made dog bone and greyhound cookie cutters! (There's a rabbit too)

From our line of clothing (people and 'hound) to our custom designed SEIKO watch, you can usually find that perfect gift you like on our web site.



George & Lee complete the journey from Orlando to Syracuse

### Auction update...

Effective the first weekend in May, we introduced an exciting new interactive section to our web pages, a fully functional Online Auction.

The initial auction ran for two months, and with one minor programming 'hiccup', seemed to work very well. We received a lot of positive feedback, as well as great suggestions for improvement. The auction results were good, but puzzling. Although we had just over 100 people sign up to bid, only 30 were our adopters! Considering the hundreds of families in our program, we were surprised. If you have any suggestions on how we can get more participation, or items you would like to see up for bids, please let me know. We are always looking for new and interesting things, so if you have something you would like to donate for the auction, please contact us.

The Auction starts up again in October, and runs for two months. Looking for some unique Christmas gifts? Check it out! You can also use our 'Cheerleader' to tell others. She is an interactive addition to the web pages, in the auction section.

Remember, *ALL* of the proceeds go to support the greyhounds and the work of AAG. *Chris Seed, Editor*



## **GREYHOUND IN THE SPOTLIGHT: EIN'S BLACK DICE "DICEY" (THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST)**

BY JOHN ARENS

Other than deliberately peeing on the bed of the first greyhound our family fostered—just a few months after her own successful adoption in May 2002, Dicey has welcomed a succession of house guests with paws spread wide. She's always excited to meet them and takes great delight in acquainting them with the household amenities, such as the location of the food bowls and treat box. She helps them quickly establish a new routine, introduces them to strange activities like trailer camping in Algonquin Park, and generally reassures them that they are in a place where they will be loved, looked after and spoiled...just like her.



The empathy and maternal instincts that make Dicey the “hostess with the mostest” have at no time been more evident than they were one evening a couple of summers ago:

The day before, we had introduced Dicey to Phantom, a sweet boy who had just come from Florida and was understandably bewildered by the non-racing world.

As part of our initiation to the house routine, that night at bedtime, I blocked myself, Dicey and Phantom off in the family room, the dogs in their x-pens and me on the couch, with a light and the TV on low. It was a long, rough night! Everything worried Phantom...the sounds of cars passing by outside...the rumble of the icemaker in the kitchen fridge...the pictures on the wall that he seemed to think were going to launch themselves at him!

His almost constant barking, whining and other indescribable sounds were punctuated by sharp bursts from Dicey, who was obviously telling him to settle down and go to sleep!

By morning our tired new foster had started to settle down a bit, but after the lunchtime walk, our dog walker reported that the neighbourhood sights and sounds had made him very nervous. And sure enough, after his evening walk, he was quite beside himself again.

It looked as though that night was going to be a repeat of the one before, but Dicey had other ideas. I was sitting in the family room watching the news when she came in with a plush toy in her mouth, and slowly poked her way into Phantom's pen. After gently depositing the toy near the back, she backed out carefully and disappeared again into the living room, where the toy basket is kept. Seconds later she returned with another toy, which she placed on top of the first. Phantom soon ventured into his pen; he nudged the toys a bit and curled up with his chin resting on top of them—and went to sleep! We had a quiet, restful night, and never looked back. From then on, Phantom slept with Dicey in our bedroom.

Dicey has helped foster seven greyhounds so far, for periods of a few weeks, up to several months. She enjoys their company and never gets jealous of the attention they get from me, my wife, Margot, and our teenagers, Brad and Allie. When they finally move on to new homes, she misses them and mopes around for several days... just like the rest of us.



# THE NEW CANADIANS...

BY HEATHER BOURDON

In May, the first group of new Canadian greyhounds were transported from Florida, by hauler, to Syracuse, New York. I was fortunate to be part of the team travelling to welcome and transport them on the last leg of their long journey. Our caravan consisted of three vans, and five volunteers.

The day started with us meeting at Lynda and Chris' in the early morning. After getting the information packages that Lynda had prepared, our mini-caravan headed off to Syracuse. After a short stop in Brockville for breakfast, we continued on our way.

The weather was perfect and the drive, uneventful. Arrangements had been made between Lynda and some greyt greyhound folks in Syracuse, Tracy Baxter Haynes and Bridget Lichtinger, for the hauler to bring the hounds directly to Bridget's home, which is located conveniently near the interstate highway.



You have how many Vans? (Len, George & Chris)



As greyhound guardians themselves, Bridget and her husband very kindly opened their home to us. Tracy had arranged to have some of their other greyhound friends meet us to make sure the dogs were safely off-loaded in the fenced backyard. Mr. George Mullins (the hauler owner) and his co-driver/assistant, Lee, had already arrived before us. All the hounds had been unloaded and were in an enclosed area when we arrived. It was wonderful to see all these dogs, that had travelled for an uninterrupted 24 hours, so happy and excited to see us.

After a short break, Chris sorted through the paperwork for Canada Customs, matching it to each dog, as they were loaded into our vans for the trip to North Gower. Our group immediately settled down and slept most of the three

hour trip back, stirring only when we slowed down!

As each of the vans arrived at Lynda's, they were unloaded and allowed to run in her backyard, before meeting the foster parents who had agreed to give them a temporary home, until they are placed with their adoptive families.

Having been a greyhound owner for only a year; it was amazing to see first-hand, the cooperation and dedication it took for everyone from Orlando to Syracuse to North Gower, to ensure the safe arrival of these newly retired athletes.

It was a pleasure to be involved, in such a small way, to make certain these incredible animals find their forever homes.





# GREYT GOINGS ON...

BY LYNDA SEED

Here we are, mid-way through October and I'm still not sure how we got here!

The days and weeks to this point have been so busy, that the months have slipped by unnoticed.

We started May off with a wonderful and very unique fund-raiser, organized and put on by the Greyhound Supporters of the National Capital Region (GSNCR). **"Four Seasons of the Greyhound"** was a Champagne Brunch, held at the Lindenhoff German Restaurant. The attendees were entertained by a fashion show, featuring both greyhound and human models, a Silent Auction and art exhibit. The highlight for Chris and I was to mingle with many of our 'Greyhound Families'.



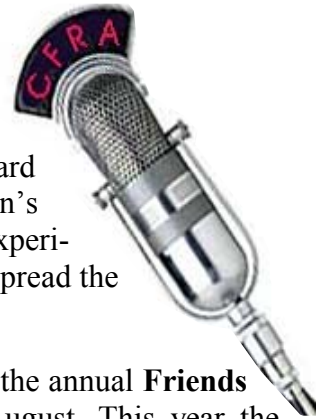
Pet Valu Barbeque benefits Adopt-A-Greyhound

The first large group of greyhounds to travel from Florida to Syracuse, NY via ground transportation (hauler), arrived in late May. (See article, page 3) Our deep appreciation to Bridget Lichtinger for making her fenced yard, and home, available to our volunteers, and to Tracy Baxter Haynes for being there with her own little band of volunteers, to assist with the unloading and exercising of the new arrivals.

Summer brings on the barbeque season, and in mid-June the **Pet Valu** store at Greenbank Square did a smokin' bbq event to benefit AAG. Donna Borsa, the store manager and organizer of this event, is also one of our very recent adopters, and proud Mom to "Lamar." She and her very able staff and volunteers, plus the AAG volunteers and hounds that were on hand, made this an extremely successful and fun afternoon. Our sincere gratitude to **Nutro Products** for sponsoring this event.

Greyhounds and adoption came to 'live' local talk radio, when I was invited to be a guest on the late evening, John Counsell Show in July. (John Counsell is host of

CFRA's **Late Night Counsell**, which is heard every weeknight from 10 to midnight) John's relaxed style made this a very enjoyable experience, and was yet another opportunity to 'spread the word'.



Once again, AAG was ably represented at the annual **Friends of the Farm Victorian Tea** in early August. This year the weather was picture perfect for this very popular event, which traditionally is set up on the lawn of the Arboretum. Many of the attendees, both those serving tea and guests, were in period dress.

In the true spirit of the day, and despite the heat, our very own 'grand dames' Monica, Marion and Heather, were dressed to impress. It was, however, the greyhounds that stole the show and garnered the most attention.



L-R: Heather & Meeka, Marion & Taze, Monica & Katy

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# CON-GREYT-ULATIONS...

It is just a little more than two years ago that the Greyhound Sitting Service went 'high tech.' From its inception, Kristin Lejeune had very ably operated and maintained this important service for AAG adopters. It had become a very popular resource for many of our families as it allowed their greyhound to be in a home environment, with people who already had at least one of their own, and who have an understanding of their special requirements.

It was, however, a time consuming task, and when Kristin decided to take a well deserved break, it looked like many of those families that had become dependant on it, would be at a loss.

Allan McIntosh (Dad to Commanche), a software developer, offered to create and oversee a website that would not only streamline the 'sitting' process, but also make it less work for the administrator.

Check out: <http://ott-grey.org/mailman/listinfo/sitting> for more information, and while doing so, consider adding your name to the list of those willing to open their home to a greyhound that needs to be cared for short term, while their own families are away.



This summer a new outdoor event came into being, thanks to Monica McGrath, who enjoys walking with her own greyhounds, Taze and Katy. The Saturday morning Walk and Talks combine an informal social gathering with non-aggressive walking, on some of the many wonderful trails and paths easily accessible around Ottawa. **"The Strolling Greyhounds"** welcome new participants to join in. For further information, contact Monica at:

[m.mcgrath7761@rogers.com](mailto:m.mcgrath7761@rogers.com) or (613) 599-7761.



The 'Walkers and Talkers'



Everyone agrees that it is the wonderful photographs of a myriad of retired racing greyhounds that each year delight and enchant those purchasing the annual Celebrating Greyhounds calendars. January 2007 features one of AAG's own; "Havane" (formerly Oshkosh Rainbow), adopted by Manon Begin. Don't miss your opportunity to have one of these calendars, (See page 6) before they are all gone!



Although we don't usually announce birthdays, weddings and other such important personal milestones, this one is rather special.

Patricia (Pat) and Lennard (Len) Paxman celebrated their **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary** on October 19<sup>th</sup>. In these times, such long term commitment deserves recognition, and is something for the rest of us to aspire to!

Since adopting their greyhound, Jazz (Okie Yasmine) in early 1999, Pat and Len have been two of our most dedicated volunteers.





# GREYT GIFT IDEAS!

## CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS CALENDARS

Back again this year, the multi award winning *Celebrating Greyhounds Calendars!* Every year we increase the number we order, and every year we still sell out of them...

The 2007 **Wall Calendar** measures about 23 cm by 30.5 cm (9" x 12") and contains over one hundred full colour photographs, showing over one-hundred and fifty retired racing greyhounds from around the world. Each of the fourteen months, (December of 2006 to January, 2008), contains four photos of different greyhounds, in all kinds of poses and situations.



Also returning this year is the very popular **Desk Diary**. This 15cm by 21.5cm (5½" by 8½") spiral bound calendar was introduced in 2002, and proved so successful, it's returned, and gained in popularity every year since! This year, the over sixty photos are in full colour. All the photographs in the desk diary are different from the wall calendar, so order both!

**WALL CALENDAR.....\$12.50**

**DESK DIARY.....\$17.50**

Special \$4 shipping costs for any number or style of calendars ordered at the same time.

## NEW ITEMS!

Check out our web pages for a number of NEW items. Just in time for the holiday baking season, we have introduced a collection of high quality **tin cookie cutters**, starting from \$3.

Our **Premium Plastic Memo Board** is rectangular, with rounded corners. It has magnets on the top 2 corners, and comes complete with a dry erase pen, mounted on the side. Our own original sketch, and the words: "Adopt-A-Greyhound... No Greyter Love!" This large (8.13" x 10.25") vinyl board is available for only \$6



The perfect item for those who have to wear a photo ID to work (or a Name Tag at a 'Meet & Greet') An **'Adopt-A-Greyhound' Lanyard!** This is a quality 1/2" by 36" classic grey lanyard, printed on **both** sides with the name and the running greyhound, 3/8" high. Finished with a standard 'bulldog' clip on a swivel. Only \$8



## *Dear Foxy!* Greyt Advice, Dog to Dog

**Dear Foxy:**

**What was with the heat this summer? I don't think it was ever that hot in Florida – at least not that I remember it. I've only been here a couple of months or so but no one ever warned me about this. How can we get them to turn down the outside temperature? Kirra, a long way from Florida.**

Dear Kirra. This is a real no brainer. Are you now enjoying the rain? Around here, just stay where you are for a few weeks. In Canada Spring is from June 15<sup>th</sup> to June 31<sup>st</sup>. Fall is from September 1st to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Summer is stuck between spring and fall and yes it can be very hot - and apparently humid heat which is much worse than dry form of heat. I heard that from the genius' outside Tim's (you'll learn about Tim's), the rest of the year is winter or as we call it the "period of ice, snow and miserably bone chilling cold". If you didn't like the heat just wait a bit longer. But get a coat and booties and a snuggly nightgown and other warm stuff while you wait. - Foxy

**Dear Foxy:**

**Are you the old diva that wrote the infamous "Foxy's Letters Home"? Do you write this "Ask Foxy, advice stuff"? Is there a book in the works? Onyx, way far away from the old home in Ottawa.**

Hey Onyx! Great play, of course it's me. I'm writing you an answer, aren't I? But seriously, I'm *that* Foxy. I don't know of any other Foxy in the communication game.

I was going to write a "tell all book" about all those deep secrets (seedy under belly) of the life of a successful racer on the tracks of South Florida. Then I checked my record for back up data... I may not have remembered that quite right. It seems I wasn't all that successful – Mom sure loved me though. They love me here too. Hence, now a change of plan - I am contemplating a big and mindless coffee table book about the relative merits of couches and skinny beds on the floor for extreme resting, pictures and all. Like any hounds would need that info! Likely this would be a great seller to the "hang around talking hounds community" with my face on the cover and occasionally inside. Nary an Ex-Racer would ever buy it, but dog people sure would. Imagine, me on the cover! I'd use an early picture, less grey you know... Other hounds all over the inside. I smell another opportunity. - Foxy

### **CONTACTING US:**

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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 (i.e.: calendars). Cheques, MasterCard & Visa are welcome. Use our secure online order form on our web page.

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

