

THE CONNECTION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NEW MEXICO GREYHOUND CONNECTION

Adopt A True Fast Friend, Let A Greyhound Race Into Your Home, Heart and Soul.

Fall - Winter 2003 Vol.1 Issue1

You hold in your hands the first official newsletter of New Mexico Greyhound Connection. In order to keep costs down we will strive to keep it as short, but informative, as possible. We encourage you, between newsletters, to visit our website at www.nmgreyhoundconnection.org. We have a News & Events page that is updated as needed and you can find current information there. We would like to start an online newsletter as well as send out email updates. If you would be interested in this please send your email address to Jbeck72726@AOL.COM.

A WORD ABOUT ADOPTION AND NMGC

The mission of NMGC is to place retired racing Greyhounds into loving, forever homes. We choose to work for the welfare of the Greyhound in an atmosphere of cooperation and respect, focusing on the positive while being mindful of the negative. We would encourage our adopters to learn as much as possible about Greyhounds. We leave it to our adopters to form their own opinions on the divisive subject of Greyhound racing and we will respect everyone's opinion on this subject.

To accomplish this mission we take the utmost care in each placement. We learn as much as possible about the history and personalities of each dog as we strive to match the dog with the adopter. Dogs, like people change, there is always a period of adjustment. A dog that might be considered lazy and uninterested by the trainer may become playful and mischievous when placed in a home. No matter the age, a home is an alien environment to the Greyhound who has spent its life on a farm and then a racing kennel. For the adoption to work it must be a partnership between the adoption group and adopter. The adopter must let the Greyhound know what is expected of it as a companion and housedog and the adoption group must be there for support.

Our dogs come to us from Greyhound Pets of America-Arizona. The dogs are released directly to GPA-Arizona by the owner/trainer, for this reason you will not find the name of the kennel or owner/trainer in our transfer forms. We officially receive the dog for adoption from GPA-AZ. If it is important to the adopter, and if requested, we will furnish the name of the kennel and/or the owner/trainer. We will also provide information on acquiring a "blue slip" from the National Greyhound Assn. to those

wishing to officially transfer ownership of their Greyhound and become the registered owner with the NGA.

A NEW CONNECTION – A NEW BEGINNING

It is with a great deal of pleasure and excitement that NMGC announces our affiliation with the nation's largest Greyhound adoption group, Greyhound Pets of America. The following comments were made by GPA President Rory Goree after his re-election to another 3 year term. "I look forward to bringing a sense of Greyhound welfare to our industry that has, unfortunately for years, been plagued by Greyhound warfare. Mr. Goree was referring to the oft combative politics between groups with opposing philosophies and ideologies about Greyhound adoption efforts.

Mr. Goree is responsible for the development and implementation of the 7x7 Program, GPA's plan that will end unnecessary Greyhound deaths and ensure that every adoptable Greyhound finds a loving home. GPA's individual goal is to reach an adoption rate of 7000 Greyhounds by the year 2007. At present, GPA has achieved a four percent increase in adoptions over the 2002 figures and is currently averaging 4500 Greyhounds adopted out per year.

These favorable trends are likely to continue. Unlike other Greyhound adoption groups, GPA has broken new ground by pioneering communications and cooperative efforts between adoption groups and racetracks. "The battlefields of Greyhound warfare are littered with too many Greyhounds that never got a chance! Our egos can be mended; once lost, a Greyhound's life can never be retrieved," said Mr. Goree.

His conviction evident, Mr. Goree continues: "It's time for people who claim that they are concerned about Greyhound welfare to stop bickering, stop making false accusations, stop picking at the weak spots of others and instead start working together to build solid and trusting relationships."

We at NMGC echo Mr. Goree's comments and pledge all our effort toward GPA's goals.

2003 GREYHOUND PLANET DAY PICNIC AND REUNION

We wish to thank all who attended our Sept. 21 picnic. We hope everyone had a wonderful time. A big thanks goes out to Lisa Elrod who organized the successful raffle and silent auction. Lisa spent hours contacting donors and cataloging the donations as they arrived, without her hard work there would not have been a raffle or auction. Thanks as well to all of our local NMGC supporters who donated items to the auction and raffle.

Another big thank you goes to Tom DeFeo who organized and took pictures for us and to his able assistant Nancy DeFeo. Both these folks have been invaluable volunteers for NMGC.

A big thanks also to Carmon Deyo and her husband Mike Dibble, for donating the beautiful one of a kind collar for the raffle and for bringing their beautiful and unique jewelry to the picnic.

Paws up and thanks to the Massage Therapists of the “New Mexico Massage & Bodywork Alliance”. Carol Fidel of The BodySmith (296-1025) and Katree Edmonds of The Massage Place (352-0263) donated their time to give our picnickers a chair massage for a donation to the Greyhounds. These two ladies have been great supporters of NMGC and the Greyhounds. If you are looking for someone to relieve your stress and make you feel relaxed please contact one of these wonderful massage therapists.

We were successful in collecting coats and collars for the Galgos of Spain. Thanks to all who took the time to help those working so hard for these cousins of our US Greyhounds.

Last but not least, thanks to all those who attended the picnic. You all made it a success. We plan another get together for next year, we’ll keep you updated on date, time and place.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A special thanks to volunteer foster Mom, Hope Arguello. Hope opened her home and heart to two 7 year old Greyhounds, Topper and Jammer. These two long time pals needed to stay together and Hope didn’t hesitate when asked to take them in. She cared for these boys for 8 weeks until a permanent home was found.

Fostering is one of the hardest jobs in adoption but one of the most fulfilling. Thank you Hope, and a thank you also to her husband Victor, from all of us at NMGC and from the Greyhounds you care for.

Thanks also to Glenn Laguna, Glenn works with Dalmatian Rescue and Animal Friends but has opened his home to foster Greyhounds as well.

Thanks as well to foster parents Tom and Nancy DeFeo who have also opened their home to Greyhounds who were awaiting their permanent home.

If you would be interested in becoming a foster family please contact Candy or Jerry Beck at 505-897-0427 or email at [Jbeck 72726@AOL.COM](mailto:Jbeck72726@AOL.COM).

NMGC also welcomes Denise Daine, Mom to Isabella. Denise has graciously offered to volunteer for us in the Durango, Co. area. Welcome to our family.

After several years of absence from working with the Greyhounds we are pleased to announce that Chuck and Sandy Edwards have joined the NMGC family as volunteers. Their love and devotion to Greyhounds along with their experience and expertise in Greyhound Adoption will be a wonderful asset to NMGC.

If you would be interested in volunteering for Meet & Greets with NMGC contact Jerry or Candy Beck at 505-897-0427 or email Jbeck72726@aol.com

MEET OUR SANTA FE CONNECTION

Our Santa Fe Coordinators, Michael and Michelle Howard, have lived in Santa Fe for 8 years. Their hometown is Ruidoso. Michael has been a New Mexico State Police Officer since 1987 and is stationed in Santa Fe. Michelle is a training coordinator/staff instructor for the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy in Santa Fe. They have two sons, Nathan 19, who is currently in the U.S. Army overseas, and Austin, 9.

They have three wonderful dogs, Slimfast the IG, Linguinni the Whippet, and Setari their rescued retired Greyhound. Michael & Michelle wrote: “When Setari came into our lives he filled our home with such love that we wanted to bring that special bonding and love to others by volunteering greyhound adoptions and rescues and to help place other living and wonderful Greyhounds in homes. From the day we met Setari and looked into his sad eyes, we couldn’t help knowing that there were others out there like him that needed families that would love them. Now the sadness is gone from Setari’s eyes and they are filled with love. We want all retired Greyhounds eyes to be the same, and with that we look forward to our retirement so we can work on adoptions 24/7 and devote all our time to rescuing and adopting out Greyhounds.”

Those of you in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico can contact Michael or Michelle at 505-424-0506 if you have questions or need assistance.

WWW.NMGREYHOUNDCONNECTION.ORG

We are in the process of expanding our website. We have added a new page to our site. This page, HOUNDS WITH HOMES, is dedicated to NMGC Greyhounds who have found their forever home. Take some time and check out this page. If you have a picture of your NMGC hound that you would like included on this Hounds With Homes page just email a picture to Lisa Elrod at nutmeg@earthlink.net or you can mail her a photo at 8800 Armistice Rd. NE, Abq. NM 87109. In addition, you will soon see an Greyhound Information Page. Our thanks to Pat Roberts, President of Greyhound Adoption League, El Paso, Texas for allowing us to take this useful information from her booklet “The Wonderful World of Greyhounds.” The complete booklet will be available on our website. Be sure to check out Mesa Boy’s story on the Mesa Boy page.

HELPFUL HOUND HINT: LOSE SOMETHING???????????????????

Things missing inside your home? Greyhounds are notorious thieves. They have never had “things” of their own. But they love “things”. They see you with “things” and are sure that you would not mind sharing. These “things” can include, but are not limited to; TV remotes, car keys, sun glasses, hair brushes, combs, dust cloths, bathroom rugs, wash clothes, your dinner, sofa cushions, bed pillows, shoes, clothes, bars of soap, newspapers,

checkbooks, pens, pencils, money and watches. If it can be picked up and moved, it probably will be. Most of the time your “things” can be found in your pet’s bed. Or it may turn into hide and seek. He will be glad to help you search for whatever it is that you lost. If you ask him what he did with it, he will look at you and wag his tail. He is so proud that he put it away for you.

Most of the thievery will stop in time. Unless it is something that he really, really likes. In that case, either put it away or give it to him. Making sure he has “things” of his own will help keep your “things” where they should be.

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HO, HO, HO, SANTA’S ON HIS WAY:

Here are some suggestions from NMGC for Christmas shopping for Hounds and humans who love Hounds.

Be sure to check out the beautiful handmade collars by Lisa Elrod at www.calicocottage.biz Lisa gives a portion of her proceeds back to the Hounds.

For beautiful gifts for the Hound Lover check out Northcoast Greyhound Support at www.northcoastgreyhounds.net. This group supports Greyhound Adoption groups throughout the US.

Visit www.crittergallery.com for beautiful hand painted Greyhound art. Jen has wonderful Christmas cards available.

For gorgeous, one of a kind jewelry visit Carmon & Mike at www.black-horse-design.com. Those of you who were at the picnic will remember the beautiful items that Carmon and Mike brought with them.

For whimsical Greyhound Gifts visit www.serengetiwhimsicalgreytgifts.com This is the place for the fun and the unusual and Marcia works tirelessly for Greyhound Adoption in Tucson, AZ.

If your Greyhound is in need of a coat please contact Peg Rexford at NAREXNM@MSN.COM. Or call Peg at 505-867-2374. Peg makes beautiful coats custom made for your Hound. Peg donated two of her beautiful coats to our auction. Peg and Noel are NMGC adopters and a portion of the proceeds from the coat sales are donated back to the group.

Please don’t forget our friends at Bow Wow Blues.

GREYHOUNDS WAITING FOR HOMES

Here is a partial list of Greyhounds waiting for their forever homes from a list of 39 available dogs. For the complete list visit the Available Dogs Page at www.nmgreyhoundconnection.org.

Dorsey Kennel

Royal, 4 year old brindle male.
Seminole, 3 year old black male.
Goodyear, 2 year old white and black male.
Canuck, 2 year old brindle male.
My O My, 3 year old white and black female.
Orange, 3 year old black female.
Macy, 2 year old red female.
Clue, 2 year old white and black female.

Puppies: 7 month old, white with a little fawn, old elbow injury, ok now.
11 month old, brindle female, old hock injury, pet sound.
14 month old, black male.

Gray Kennel

Derek, 4 year old black male, 76lbs., shoulder muscle injury, ok now, very nice, activity level 5.
Candidate, white brindle male, 66lbs., really cute
Shallow Hal, 3 year old brindle male, 70lbs., hock injury, short and cute.
Sub Atomic, 4 year old brindle male, activity level 5.
Restless Spirit, 5 year old brindle female, 63lbs., shy, afraid of kids.
Moxie Fruvouv, black 58lb. Female, activity level 4.

Michalet Kennel

Popeye, black 4 ½ year old male, 74lbs., very friendly, minor muscle injuries, activity level 6.
Tic Tac, white and black, 4 ½ year old male, 74lbs., shy at first then very friendly, minor injuries, activity level 5.
Tammy Lynn, 2 year old brindle female, 67lbs., weird changeable personality, activity level 3 to 8.
Angel, 4 ½ year old dark brindle female, 60lbs., old ankle injury, ok now. Activity level 5.
Dee Dee, 3 year old brindle female, unraced, (paperwork snafu) 65lbs., shy then friendly, activity level 4.

Mary Gray

3 year old brindle male, super nice.
2 year old white female, puppyish.

