

**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.*

Vol.3 Issue3  
Fall/Winter

**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BIRTHDAY  
PARTY A SUCCESS**

Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> Hounds and Humans alike came together to celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday of NMGC.

Once again the kind ladies of Bow Wow Blues allowed us to use their fully fenced backyard. The hounds enjoyed the chance to visit with each other and relax in the pools set up for their enjoyment.

Along with members of the NMGC family, friends and supporters from Texas and Arizona Greyhound adoption groups joined us. While the hounds enjoyed tasty birthday cake from 3 Dog Bakery their humans ate their own cake, bought raffle tickets and shopped at the NMGC General Store, Calico Cottage, Serengeti Whimsical Greyt Gifts (www.serengetiwhimsicalgreytgifts.co) and Greyt Threads

(www.greytthreads.com). Serengeti Whimsical Greyt Gifts made the trip from Tucson, Arizona and Greyt Threads from Idyllwild, California to help support the Greyhounds. Please visit their websites for wonderful Greyhound merchandise.

All of us at NMGC thank you for your support of the Greyhounds. A special thanks goes to Noel and Peg Rexford who helped with our set-up and sold raffle tickets. As we begin planning for next year's celebration we need your ideas to make the Greyhounds party better and even more enjoyable. If anyone in our big Greyhound family has any suggestions for next year please feel free to e-mail us at

[info@nmgreyhoundconnection.org](mailto:info@nmgreyhoundconnection.org)

Thanks to all for a wonderful time.

**WHAT A PARADE**

The weekend of July 4<sup>th</sup> found the Hounds of NMGC in Capitan, New Mexico to celebrate our country's freedom. The crowds lining the streets of this small town clapped and cheered for the Greyhounds as they and their humans paraded past.

We had a wonderful time and we thank the friendly folks of Capitan for their hospitality. We are proud to have been awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize for our "Marching Division". It was a wonderful way to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to participating in next year's parade.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Meet and Greet with the Greyhounds at Whole Foods Market, Academy & Wyoming.**

10:00 AM - 2:00PM on:

Saturday, Aug. 28th

Saturday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**It's A Garage Sale**

NMGC will participate in the Ventana Ranch Neighborhood Assn. Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. The event will be located at Terrazas Park in Ventana Ranch from 8:00AM till 12:00 Noon. We will also have our hounds and the NMGC information booth set up to promote Greyhounds and Greyhound Adoption.

If you have any extra items in your closets, under your beds and in your garage bring them to NMGC to help us raise money for the Hounds. Contact us at [info@nmgreyhoundconnection.org](mailto:info@nmgreyhoundconnection.org) or phone 897-0427 for drop-off locations in the NE Heights and on the West Side.

**“GREYT GATHERING”**

Looking for a restful weekend get-a-way with your hounds? Consider the beautiful mountain pines of Prescott, Arizona.

GPA-Arizona is hosting the “Greyt Gathering in the Pines”

Location: Camp Yavapines, Prescott, Arizona

Dates: Oct. 22 – 24, 2004

Camp Yavapines is a 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church Camp. They have cabins and a camp ground with RV hook-ups. If you don't want to “rough-it” in the church camp tradition there are 18 motels in near-by Prescott that allow dogs.

There will be many fun events and informative talks. For details and to register contact Leah Cole at

[icole1@mindspring.com](mailto:icole1@mindspring.com).

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT –  
CHANGES**

In this issue's Volunteer Spotlight we are taking the opportunity to inform our NMGC family of some changes.

Michelle Howard, NMGC Adoption Representative for Santa Fe, will now become the representative for South/Southeastern New Mexico. Michelle and her family have moved back home to Capitan, NM. You can now reach Michelle at 505-354-1097. Michelle will now fill a much-needed presence in that part of the Land of Enchantment.

Stepping in to fill the vacancy in Santa Fe is Suzanne Brannan. Meet Suzanne in her own words. “I met my first greyhound at a meet and greet in Los Angeles. I was smitten immediately, I was so excited that the next day my husband and I drove out to Hemopet to find a greyhound to call our own. We started with one and within a year we had three. Well, nine years later and a move to Santa Fe we now have a family of six greyhounds. When we decided to move here it was with the intention to adopt and foster greyhounds. Since being here, I've gotten involved as a contributing writer and editor of ‘Petroglyphs’. We live in Cerrillos Hills on 29 acres, which we call ‘Howling Hound Ranch’. I'm kept pretty busy as a Real Estate Agent in south Santa Fe.”

You can reach Suzanne at 505-424-4733.

NMGC thanks both these dedicated Greyhound lovers for taking time from their busy lives to help the retired racing greyhounds.

A special thanks to Sandy & Chuck Edwards who stepped in and ran the NMGC booth at the April Petsmart Adopt-A-Thon. Without their support the Greyhounds would not have been represented.

**As always we need volunteers who will share their homes with Foster dogs waiting for permanent homes. A good Foster home is worth its weight in gold. If you feel you could do this important work please contact us.**

**We also need volunteers for meet and greets. If you have never been involved with this part of Greyhound Adoption you need to give it a try. Talking with people about our wonderful Greyhounds is a lot of fun and facilitating a potential adoption just makes a person feel very GREYT.**

#### **TESS UPDATE**

Testify (Tess) has had her second – and final – surgery to have the hardware removed from her leg. She gets around well in her splint, again, which will be on for 3-1/2 weeks this time. After 5 weeks, she can begin to slowly resume normal activities, like running and jumping again. Until then, Tess has to be on a leash when going outside to potty, so she misses out on all the back yard romps with her foster brothers and sister, and the races throughout the

house. But she does get to enjoy a good walk every day.

Tess has learned that the cats in the home are part of the family, and no longer pays any attention to them. She will, however, chase any neighborhood cat that comes into the back yard if given the opportunity. She has a very pretty “sit”, which she’ll do automatically when she see’s the cookie’s coming out, and she knows “down” and “shake” as well. She walks very well on a leash and is learning to be patient at the front door when asked to “wait” before going out the door for a walk. In between surgeries when she was allowed to run, she used the doggie door to go in and out of the house very reliably.

She does love other dogs and is very sad if she’s alone, so her forever home should have a canine companion. She loves to play with stuffies and to pick up after her foster parents. If anything is missing, it can always be found (usually undamaged) on Tess’ bed. She loves kids and older people alike. She is wonderful at her 96 year old foster-grandmother’s assisted living facility, joyfully greeting and kissing every person she sees and brightening the faces of all who meet her.

It will soon be time for Tess to find her new loving forever home and she will be greatly missed by her foster family; Kent and Lisa Elrod, Hana, Titus, and Mesa Boy, who have all come to love her so much.

#### **NMGC GENERAL STORE**

The **NMGC General Store** is now up and running. We offer tee shirts, sweatshirts, books, lanyards, Christmas

cards and the beautiful custom made martingales of Calico Cottage. We now also have in stock **Celebrating Greyhounds 2005 wall calendars and date books.**

Please visit and show your support for the retired racing greyhounds. You can order online using your major credit card through PayPal. Ordering information is on the website. Please pay us a visit, as always all money raised goes to the Greyhounds.

**Please continue to check our website for news and upcoming events throughout the year. Also check the available dogs page if you are looking for an addition to your Greyhound family.**

### **RUBS FOR RACERS**

A special thank you to **New Mexico Massage and Body Works Alliance** who joined the Greyhounds of NMGC at 3 Dog Bakery on Sat. July 24<sup>th</sup> for a Meet and Greet Fundraiser. These kind folks donated their time to give chair massages for a donation to the Greyhounds. We appreciate their continued support.

### **NOW HEAR THIS**

The first live call in radio show dedicated to Greyhounds and Greyhound Adoption is on the air.

Join GPA National President Rory Goree and Arizona Adopt A Greyhound Co-director Kari Morrison-Young for **Greyhounds Make Great Pets** on VoiceAmerica.com every Friday at 12:00 noon Mountain time.

### **HOUND INFORMATION – A DAY IN THE LIFE**

Ever wonder why your Greyhound gets you up at 5AM, always wants to eat at the same time and makes that “race track” in your backyard? To help shed some light on our retired athletes unique background we asked **Clifton Gray (a trainer we receive dogs from) of Arivada Kennels in Phoenix, Arizona** to share with us a day in his life and the lives of his Greyhounds.

#### **A DAY IN THE LIFE**

During the summer months, the dog’s day will start at 5:00 or 5:30 AM to try and beat the heat as much as possible. In the winter we’ll start at 6:00 or 6:30. First turnout lasts about 45 minutes; while the dogs are outside, we clean the kennel, pull all bedding and check for wet rugs, otherwise known as “couldn’t hold it”. In our main building, where we have 48 dogs, there will be 8 to 10 wet rugs each day, so the majority of them are “housebroken”, so to speak. Dirty rugs are washed in mild bleach water and hung to dry. Each dog also has their own water can, all of which are washed every 3 days on a rotating cycle.

After first turn-out comes morning workouts. On Mondays and Fridays, we are at the track by 6:15AM for morning schooling. Young dogs who have yet to start racing gain experience running with 2 or 3 other dogs from a smaller starting box during this time; also, we run short, 2 to 3 dog races from the backstretch (about 290 yards) for dogs who are returning from injury or are just in need of a confidence boost. We also have

access to a sprint field, which is a deep sand path about 50 yards wide and 200 yards long, where the dogs can get out for a good, strong run between official starts at the track. Since our kennel is right next to the track and its gigantic parking lot, we also “truck walk” on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings (Park ‘n Swap operates on Friday thru Sunday mornings as well as Wednesday night, leaving the parking lot a huge mess on Thursday morning). Four people will be situated in one of our trucks – the driver, one in the passenger seat, and one in each of the two back holes of the dog box. Each person takes a group of 5 to 7 dogs on leashes, using hooks located on all 4 corners of the dog box, and takes care to keep them away from the wheels as we cruise slowly around the parking lot for a distance of .6 to .7 of a mile, never going any faster than a brisk trot. This “moving treadmill” exercise is wonderful for many common ailments, ranging from ankle or hip discomfort (the low impact repetition of movement is as good as a massage) to difficulty in urinating (found almost exclusively in males, occasionally the stress of racing leads to being “tied up”, which if left untreated can lead to kidney problems—but the slow warming exercise of truck walking combined with natural diuretics such as ground uva ursi leaves, cranberry juice, or potassium supplements eases the discomfort within a day). Typically, they love to truck-walk—Georgia-Peach, who can be seen on my webpage, runs out in front of the peloton and walks at the very end of her lead all the way around the lot (which is how she earned the back half of her nickname, “The Hard-Workin’ Li’l Dog”).

Basically, our workout program is a such: Each dog has an official start approximately every 5 to 6 days. While I don’t work dogs who are running tonight or the next day or who ran the previous night, I try to ensure that no active dog goes any 3-day period without some form of workout (truck-walking, sprinting, or short races at morning schooling) to help keep them in shape and to spot any minor injuries between starts that could lead to a larger malady were they allowed to run on it. (For example, a dog with a sore shoulder might develop a hitch in their stride by trying to take pressure off of the sore muscle, which would in turn cause them to strike their legs together each time they stride and causing a bone bruise on the rear leg on the opposite side of the body from the sore shoulder. Thus, instead of remedying a tender muscle, which takes usually no more than a week’s rest and a few good liniment massages, we’d be healing a bone bruise, which can take two months).

(I’ll take a second out of describing the average dog’s workday to give all of the people connected with the recent puppy adoptions an update on their mama. Self Defense is now sprinting 200 yards against another greyhound and doing well. If anyone would like to know more about this little girl who produced all those adorable puppies, feel free to email me at the address below).

Here in the summertime, we try to be off the parking lot by 7:15AM when truck-walking, and through with sprinting before 8:00. The next hour or two is taken up by grooming time in the kennel, where we go over last night’s racers checking for injuries, and applying any liniments or poultices where necessary.

(As we speak, my overalls are hung in the bathroom, trying to air out the stench of beechwood creosote contained in Numotizine, which we utilized to pack Metro Freedom's ankles this morning.) With 4 benches going at once, we can check over 40 dogs in one hour, clipping nails and combing their hair.

Around 9:00AM we turn everyone out again. After half an hour outside (or less if it's real hot already), we bring them back in and weigh tonight's and the next night's racers (they must be within 1 1/2 pounds of their set weight, over or under, at weigh-in time before the races in the evening, so we can adjust their feed accordingly if they're in danger of being under/over the limit). Then, we feed.

My feed tub looks something like this, for the 105 dogs in my 3 buildings: 180 pounds of raw ground beef, thawed overnight; one 50-lb. sack of Purina Hi Pro; a stock-pot's worth of cooked rice and pasta (about 6 pounds uncooked), for complex carbs; 2lbs. Of Sweetlix dried molasses, for simple sugar carbs; a gallon-size can of diced tomatoes or a few cups of vinegar, if the meat is too fatty, or boiled chicken necks, if the meat is too lean; 1 1/2 lbs. Of electrolyte powder, to promote total hydration; and enough water to bring it all together, usually 4 or 5 gallons. Females get about 3 pounds of feed apiece, while males get about 3 1/2 pounds' worth. We also have numerous supplements at our disposal, ranging from calcium and potassium tablets to a squirtable vitamin syrup given to the next day's racers. Dogs racing tonight have their feed placed in the fridge and are fed after they run, working on the same general principle as "don't swim right after you

eat"; we want all available blood to be carrying oxygen to the muscles, rather than working on digesting a belly-full of food.

We're out of the kennel by 10:30, and we get back at 4:00PM. After soaking the turnout pens to battle the blazing sun, we give them a quick, 5-minute turnout. It may seem short, but they understand the urgency of it – they run out, do their business, and are all waiting by the gate to come back in within those 5 minutes. Over the next hour we go over that night's racers on the grooming bench, making sure they're free of any and all parasites before they head to the track. Weigh-in is either at 5:00PM, or 6:00PM, depending on if there's qualifying races before the official races (which usually occurs on Monday and Friday unless there's a steaks final on said Friday, in which case they hold qualifiers on Thursday or Saturday instead). All racers must be in the track's kennel room "by one hour prior to the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> race", to quote state law, which translates to 6:30PM. This is the last time we're allowed to touch them until they come off the track after the race.

Each race's 8 entrants are led out of the "ginny pit", as the track kennel is called, by track employees approximately 25 minutes prior to the post time for their race. They are walked around a dirt area in the paddock for two purposes: to help them loosen up before their race, and also to collect urine samples. Each dog is walked around for 5 minutes or so or until it "provides a sample", which is collected by the lead-out using a high-tech device known as a cup attached to a stick. The state veterinarian stores the samples collected in his office until after

the race; if the eventual winner did not “provide” before the race, the trainer is provided with a cup-on-a-stick and they are supervised by the vet as they walk the dog in the grass briefly to see if they’ll go. If not, the vet will select a random sample from those who did supply, and the trainer of the dog must sign-off on the sample, which is then sent off for drug screening. The list of banned substances would make a major-league baseball player cry—it covers everything from painkillers (running a dog while hurt could constitute an attempt to fix a race, aside from just being irresponsible to the dog’s health) to certain medications (running a dog while sick...well, see “irresponsible”) to any and all stimulants, including and ESPECIALLY caffeine and ephedra (closed beverage containers ONLY in my kennel, as a caffeine bad test results in a \$250.00 fine, forfeiture of all money paid for the race, and a possible trainer suspension). The thing about painkillers and medications is, if the dog is so sick or hurt that it needs to be on banned substances while it runs, you probably should have scratched it in the first place. Most of the liniments we use, such as Flex-All, Absorbine, Tuttle’s, or just good old rubbing alcohol, are test-safe. Anything that will cause a bad test, such as DMSO or Bigeloil, is for use on non-active dogs only.

For non-racers, late turnout is at 9:00PM, and they’re out for another good half-hour. It may not seem on the surface like they get out of their crates enough, but in reality, when they go outside, for the most part the whole lot of them are laying down in the sad within 5 minutes anyway, and when they come in, they plop back down and fall asleep right after going in their crates.

New pups may take a few weeks to settle into this routine, but especially after they get onto the standard working plan, they start saving their energy for race days. One little trick we have for our racers is that we take them out, two at a time, during grooming time in the morning, and give them a towel-bath with slightly soapy water then take them for a leisurely stroll around the kennel grounds (we have a circular driveway that’s about 1/5 of a mile in circumference). We’ve been doing this for years, and it seems to engender a somewhat Pavlovian response in the dogs. They seem to know that if we go for a “hand walk” in the morning, that means there’s a race later in the day, and typically they’ll lay down and not complain while everyone else around them gets to eat at the regular time.

Hopefully this has helped to give you a glimpse into the everyday routine of a racing greyhound. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [tfg46@cox.net](mailto:tfg46@cox.net). Furthermore, you can see pictures of my dogs on my photo gallery page at <http://tfg46.tripod.com/tfgweb.html>.

### **About the Author**

Clifton Gray has been involved in greyhound racing his whole life, born into a family that has been in racing since his great-grandfather, Albert competed in coursing meets up and down the Ohio Valley in the 1920’s. Clifton trains for his father’s Arivada Kennels, which is based in Phoenix but also field’s kennels at Wichita G. P. (Valley Center, KS) and Wheeling Downs (Wheeling, WV). Those who follow Phoenix racing might wonder who ‘Gray Kennels’ is, then; that is

Clyde and Mary Gray, who are Clifton's grandfather and aunt, respectively. Racing has usually been his main focus; case in point, he got his coolout's license on the day of his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, while he didn't bother with getting his driver's license until a week afterwards. After spending a semester at Arizona State trying to balance school with training, he decided one or the other had to go...so he forfeited his scholarship to open a kennel in Tucson. After nearly three years in Tucson, the kennel was shifted to Wichita, but Clifton moved back to Phoenix to help run the main branch of the operation. Since that time, Arivada was awarded one of only 3 available bookings at Wheeling Island (nee Wheeling Downs), the top track in the country.

Arivada has also overseen Arizona Adopt-A-Greyhound's holding kennel since late 1999, and Clifton volunteers at several of AAGI's events held at the track, such as their monthly nail-trimming clinics. He has also been a friend of Jim McDowell and Leah Cole of GPA-AZ since he met them while training at Apache Greyhound Park in the '99-'00 season. He became acquainted with the NMGC after the loss and subsequent rescue (and, most recently, the adoption by radio station KGAK) of Racin Is Best after an accident on icy I-40 last December.

Currently, Clifton is sharing his work time between the kennel and the office, helping to cover some of the "corporate" duties since his father, Bob, is sharing HIS time between Phoenix and Wheeling. Outside of the kennel, he enjoys vocal performance; what started as an occasional spin at karaoke has blossomed into a recent partial

scholarship from the Maricopa Institute for the Arts & Entertainment Technology, and he will be attending Scottsdale Community College three afternoons a week as a member of the performance group [Voices@Work](#).

**A big NMGC thank you to Clifton for taking the time to share with us a day in his life and the lives of his Greyhounds.**

## **MOVING?**

If you are moving please notify NMGC of your new address and phone #. If your Greyhound would happen to get loose and we are contacted we need current information so we can contact you and reunite you and your Greyhound as quickly as possible.

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