



Paws

Tales

Issue 19

Spring 1999

Notes from the Director



In Loving Memory
Ace Eichenlaub

Happy New Year! The last year of the millennium is upon us. We have certainly made a lot of progress in the last nine years, over **4,000** greyhounds have made their way into homes just like yours since we began in 1990.

1998 went out with a bang! We participated in the **Tempe Fantasy of Lights** parade over Thanksgiving weekend, and then in the Tempe Arts Festival on December 5th and 6th. Although we had rain off and on for both events, our volunteers did a great job!

1999 should prove to be one of our best (and busiest!) years yet! We have many events scheduled for the spring, so read on to find out how you can get out with your greyhound(s) and help us promote AAGI.

Our **Annual Alumni Night** is scheduled for Sunday, April 11, 1999. For those of you who are not familiar with this event, you're in for a treat! **Phoenix Greyhound Park** hosts a reunion each year, inviting 100 lucky greyhounds (and their owners) to a parade and party at the track. It's a wonderful evening! Unfortunately, not everyone can attend the reunion as there's

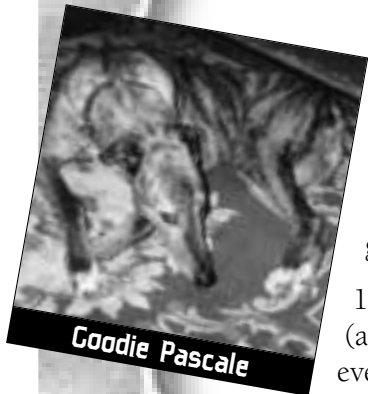
just not enough room at **Phoenix Greyhound Park** for all of our retired racers, so look for an invitation in the mail in March. If you're interested in attending, send in the response, and PGP will draw 100 lucky greyhounds. If you aren't lucky enough to get drawn, we'd love to have you come down **without** your greyhound. Your invitation will have all the details! I look forward to seeing you there.

We're always exploring new fundraising ideas, and many of our volunteers have expressed an interest in putting an **AAGI Golf Tournament** together in 2000. I've included information in the **Poops and Scoops** section of this newsletter with more details if you would like to help with this very large project.

We'll be hosting a **Volunteer Orientation** on **Sunday, March 14th** at **Phoenix Greyhound Park**. This meeting is for our **new** volunteers. If you are interested in helping out at our volunteer events and haven't attended a volunteer meeting before, please plan to attend. The details on this meeting are listed in **Poops and Scoops**.

As you will see, we have a very busy Spring ahead of us. Enjoy this fantastic Arizona weather!

Cheryl



Goodie Pascale



Specs Lindberg



Shadae Arcaro

Note: All dogs pictured in this newsletter were adopted through AAGI.

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A Tribute to Dasher

*A Tribute to Dasher from the staff of
Arizona Adopt A Greyhound*

Working with **Arizona Adopt A Greyhound** is one of the most rewarding things we do. We are able to make so many people happy by helping them bring a wonderful new member into the family (sometimes two or three or four), and we go to sleep each night knowing that thousands of retired racers are in good hands, sleeping soundly at the foot of someone's bed in a warm room with full tummies. We work hard to make sure that each greyhound is doing well, that each family is happy and that it is a match made in heaven. While we're not perfect, we have a pretty good track record, one of the best in the country.

Last November a greyhound named **Dinkum Dasher** found his way back to us, causing us to wonder if we're really doing everything we can. You all know that we ask you to give your greyhounds back to us if you decide you don't want them anymore. We even ask you to sign a contract that says you will not give them away. Most of you do call us if you find you can't keep your greyhound, and we do our best to get them in as fast as we can and into another good home.

Dinkum Dasher was not so lucky. Rabies/Animal Control called us one Monday afternoon and said they found a white with black greyhound running the streets. They told us he was fine and that we could pick him up at the end of the week, as long as his adopted owner didn't claim him before that. We checked on him all week and picked him up as instructed on Friday afternoon.

We couldn't believe our eyes. **Dasher** had been hit by a car and his injured leg was swollen and infected. All four paws were swollen, and he was emaciated beyond belief. We called Dr. Hunt and he and his staff agreed to stay late to help **Dasher**. He was so weak we had to carry him into Dr. Hunt's office. He ate a lot of food, but could not seem to shake the massive infection in his legs. Over the next few days he slowly deteriorated, started to have seizures and never could stand on his own. We lost **Dasher** five days after we found him.

We later learned that **Dasher's** family had moved to Minnesota, and decided they didn't

want him anymore. Instead of calling us, they said they gave him to a friend on a farm.

We don't want **Dasher's** death to go unremembered. He was a healthy, vibrant greyhound when he was adopted and did not deserve the fate he was dealt. We do our best to check on each greyhound that is placed, and while we certainly can't solve every problem, we sure try. We are writing this in the hope that you will remember **Dasher's** fate if you decide you don't want your pets anymore. **Please call us and ask for help before you place your animals in another home. It might not happen overnight, but we'll do our best to work with you.**

We know that 99% of you would never do this. We just hope that the 1% that might will change their mind when they read this. Hug your hounds and give them an extra treat for us tonight. We're thinking of each and every one of them.

A Greyhound Angel

High up in the courts of heaven today
a greyhound angel waits;
with the other angels he will not play,
but he sits alone at the gates.
"For I know my master will come" says he,
"and when he comes he will call for me."

The other angels pass him by
As they hurry toward the throne,
And he watches them with a wistful eye
as he sits at the gates alone.
"But I know if I just wait patiently
that someday my master will call for me."

And his master, down on earth below,
as he sits in his easy chair,
forgets sometimes, and whispers low
to the dog who is not there.
And the greyhound angel cocks his ears
and dreams that his master's voice he hears.

And when at last his master waits
outside in the dark and cold,
for the hand of death to open the door,
that leads to those courts of gold,
he will hear a sound through the gathering dark,
a greyhound angel's faithful bark.

Author Unknown

P:GOOPS & S:COOPS

Volunteer Information

Sunday, March 14th, Phoenix Greyhound Park

If you are new to the program, or have never attended a volunteer meeting before, please come on **Sunday, March 14th at 4 pm**. We'll hand out brochures and materials to use at volunteer events, as well as answer the most common questions you'll get while working at our events. Please RSVP to **Sam Kabbel at 971-6935, mailbox 3 by Thursday, March 10th**. The meeting will take place at Phoenix Greyhound Park, 3801 E. Washington St., Phoenix. There will be signs when you arrive directing you to the meeting area.

Fountain Hills Spring Arts Festival - February 27th & 28th

Always a great afternoon, the **Fountain Hills Spring Arts Festival** requires many volunteers, so please call **971-6935 and leave a message in mailbox 3** if you can help.

Tempe Arts Festival - March 27th & 28th

Please call us at **971-6935, mailbox 3** if you can help with this festival.

UCP Wiener Walk - February 27th, McKellips Lake Park

UCP's Annual "Pets Helping People" Pooch Parade will take place on **Saturday, February 27 beginning at 10 am**. We will have a booth at the walk to answer questions about adopting a greyhound. If you would like to work at this event, please call **Sam at 971-6935, mailbox 3** for more details. If you would like to participate in the parade, you can call **UCP at 943-5472**. UCP is a fantastic organization helping people with cerebral palsy.

The **Annual Wiener Dog Nationals** will be on **Saturday, March 6 at Phoenix Greyhound Park**.

Thirty-two Miniature Dachshunds and eight Jack Russell Terriers will compete in **for fun/for charity** races, also benefiting UCP. For more information on the Wiener Dog Nationals, call **Phoenix Greyhound Park at 273-7181**. This is an evening you won't want to miss! The Wiener Dog Nationals is for people only - **no greyhounds, please!**

Oakland Athletics Spring Training Games - March 4th - April 1st

We have been invited to attend some of the home games on the **Oakland As Spring Training** schedule. Our volunteers had so much fun last year, we are thrilled to be invited back! Please call **Sam at 971-6935, mailbox 3** if you would like to work at one of the games.

PetsMart

We really need help with all of our **PetsMarts** around the Valley. I'd like to say thank you to everyone that helps out with these busy stores. If you have been

thinking about volunteering but just haven't done it yet, please call **Sam at 971-6935, mailbox 3**. It takes a lot of people to maintain our presence at these stores, so please consider helping us out. You and your greyhounds will have a great time, too!

A Note About Volunteering

It's **very** important to let us know if you plan to attend any of our events as we get complaints from other vendors if we have too many greyhounds at our booth. We love the help, and of course love to see you if you are just visiting the festival with your pooch, but please be respectful of the other vendors and move by quickly so we don't clog things up. It's taken time to develop a relationship with the event organizers, and we have strict guidelines on how many greyhounds can be in our booth (many times animals are not even allowed and they make special arrangements with us!). If you would like to help with any of our events, please call us ahead of time so that we can schedule your participation!

1st Annual AAGI Golf Tournament

We are very excited about this fund-raiser. Our helpers at the **Arizona Cardinals** games decided this is something we really could put together, but it won't be easy! If you would like to help out with this long-term project, please call **Michele Rebeor at 812-9205**, or e-mail her at luvagreyhnd@sprynet.com. We're just in the planning stages right now, so she'll call you back when we've had some time to get organized. Our target date for this golf tournament is in the Spring of 2000.

Governor's Celebration

Wednesday, March 17th, Wesley Bolin Plaza

Be a part of history! We need a few greyhounds and their owners to attend the Governor's Celebration on Wednesday, March 17th, at Wesley Bolin Plaza from 11 am - 2 pm. We don't have all of the details yet, so give us a call if you're interested in going, and we'll let you know when we know more!

The Greyhound Calendar 2000

Calling all photographers, even amateur photographers!! **The Greyhound Calendar** has become one of our most popular gift shop items, so wouldn't it be nice to see some local greyhounds in the calendar? Let's all send pictures of our wonderful pets to: **The Greyhound Project, Inc., 295 Tremont Street, Newton, MA 02458**. The photos won't be returned, and be sure to include all the information you can about your greyhound(s). We can't wait for next year's calendar to see which of our "stars" becomes famous for a year!!!



Help, My Dog's Afraid!

By Sam Kabbel, *Canine Behavior Concepts*, 314-4416

We all remember bringing our greyhound home for the first time. Everything was a new experience! Most greyhounds take the new environment in stride and before long, they think of themselves as part owner of the house! Some aren't quite that confident and they may develop fears.

What is fear?

Fear is a physical, behavioral and emotional response to something that the dog perceives as fearful. Obvious signs include: increased heart rate, panting, sweating paws, trembling, pacing and sometimes urination or defecation.

Is it abnormal for my dog to act fearful?

In many situations, it is acceptable and understandable for a dog to act fearful! However, there are times that the dog's fear can be overwhelming to him, making his response unpredictable. Frightened dogs may run away (flight), stay still (freeze) or even become aggressive (fight). How they respond depends on their personality, the stimulus causing the fear and what type of previous experience they've had with that stimulus.

Does that mean that my dog was mistreated?

In the majority of the cases, NO! Often, dogs have a genetic predisposition to act fearful, meaning the dog's inherited personality dictates how they will react to a new situation. It's no different than people who are claustrophobic, hypochondriacs or simply shy.

What is a phobia?

This is an intense response to something the dog perceives as fearful. The dog's response is usually out of context and disproportionate. Common phobias involve noises and places. It is similar to fear, but extremely exaggerated. (Example: thunderstorm phobia)

What is anxiety?

The definition of anxiety is a feeling of impending danger, threat or extreme concern. Anxiety in dogs is manifested by some of the same signs as fear, but more often displayed in other activities such as chewing, digging, whining or barking. (Example: separation anxiety)

What can I do to help my dog?

The best thing you can do to help your dog is to stop consoling him! When we try to calm them by providing treats or affection, we are actually rewarding the dog for being fearful. They cannot distinguish between a cheerful, "Good Boy" and the calming, "It's OK, don't be afraid." While they cannot understand our language, they can understand our tone of voice. To them, praise and consoling sound the same!

It is best to distract your dog during a fearful or phobic response and try to direct him to another activity. Try waving his favorite toy in front of his nose, or suddenly running out of the room with him following curiously behind. Be sure that you have distracted him from the fear before playing or giving treats or you will be rewarding the fear. If this doesn't work, it is still better to ignore the fearful behavior and reward calm behavior instead. You may notice that your dog looks at you when something scares him. He is looking to you for direction on how he should react. Take advantage of this and teach him that there is nothing to be feared, instead of trying to calm his fears.

Please remember that each time your dog is exposed to an anxiety, fear or a phobic situation and cannot be made to calm down, the problem may worsen. In some cases, you may need the help of a professional animal behaviorist.



Darwin & Baby Phillips

Letters...

Letters from our Kids

Esther Marie and Duane Capps adopted Crus, a black female; race name Ran D Crusader in July, 1998. Here's a letter from Crus:

Dear Kiensten and Cheryl,

Tomorrow is my 6-month adoption anniversary - and you picked a good home for me! Oliver the orange tabby cat (called The Cat From Hell by Cheryl) and I get along beautifully. He is declawed in front, which is good, otherwise my nose might be bloody and shorter. He runs on top of the furniture in the Family Room, and I run around the furniture. Then, we stop and I growl, and he bats at me. Sometimes Mom and Dad have to tell us both to calm down. When I stand, on occasion, Oliver comes over and grabs my front legs, bites my foot then licks the foot and I just stand until he has finished whatever routine that my be. Oliver does explain a lot of what to do and not to do, and he says some naughty cat words when he does that. But I **DO** listen!

Although I am not supposed to be a guard dog, I barked to awaken my family the night that a firetruck, ambulances and 5 police cars were at the neighbor's house. At 3 in the morning, there were no sirens, just a lot of flashing lights. My parents really were proud of me. I have barked on other occasions at night when I felt that there was something wrong in the neighborhood, but nothing has been as dramatic as my first alarm.

I think it's fun to have friends come over, and I can beat Dad to the front door when the doorbell rings. I even look forward to the cleaning ladies coming, and they can't believe that they can vacuum right up to the end of my tail, and I don't move. I trust people a lot. I'm on a leash at the front door - there is a spot where it hangs, and the minute it goes on, I know company is coming. Mom and Dad are proud of me - I don't eat off people's plates, don't beg, and just smile at company! I do clean up after them, just trying to keep the floor clean.

We take a ride in the car almost every day, and Dad takes me out to water the sand or just walk around - and boy, do we ever attract attention. Sometimes I walk with Mom in her wheelchair, or her walker, and only a couple of occasions have I forgotten and pulled the leash too hard.

I'm now learning about Christmas - the tree is up, although why it doesn't smell like a tree is beyond me! I get to smell and look, but am learning **'NO TOUCH.'** Oliver tells me the humans do this every year - and when Christmas comes, there will be presents for us both.

I have a whole bunch of stuffed toys which are **MINE.** I throw them, race around the house with them in my mouth, put them where I think they show off the best - and then somebody moves them! My teeth put big holes in the soccer ball, so I don't have that any more.

Mom and Dad also are proud of me when they both have to leave, and they say 'kennel' and I run right in. Of course they give me some treats for being so good.

We have air conditioning for those hot days, and 2 of Dad's sweaters for me on the 2 cold and chilly weekends we just had. I get to sleep on Mom and Dad's bed in the daytime, and sometimes I crawl up on it at night, but there isn't that much room for me to move around at night, although I try to scrunch Dad's legs off the bed by just curling up and kind of moving a bit, and another bit.

Hope you all have a marvelous Holiday season, and I've asked Mom to enclose some photos.

Love, CRUS



Oliver & Crus Capps

Have a Heart...

Special Homes Needed For Special Dogs

Cody

My name is **Cody** - I'm a beautiful "light" red **brindle male** (I'm almost a fawn brindle). I've got a **great personality**, I **love people**; **kids are neat**. **Cats and little dogs are neat, too**. I have one problem - I have epilepsy - as long as I get my 2 pills a day (they don't cost much!) **I'm kool!** I'm 3 1/2 years old and very anxious to get to a permanent home. **Give me a call at 971-6935, ask for Cody!**

Sport

My name is **Sport**, and I'm a very special boy! I'm white and black with a little ticking - **I'm very handsome**. I'm just barely 2 years old and **love people and dogs** (all sizes!), and I'm pretty good with cats, too. I'm very **loving and have a lot of energy**, so I would like to live in an **active home** with people and animals that **like to play**. I have epilepsy, but as long as I get my medicine I'm just fine. It won't cost very much at all! **If you think I could come live with you, please call me at 971-6935.**

Letters from our Family

*David, Lucette, Erica, Nicole, Danielle, Marc and Matthew Lindberg
adopted Specs, Spec R Spots, a black and white male, in March, 1998.*

Hi Everyone!

It's Specs' six month anniversary with his family! I can't imagine my life without him. Everyone in the family says he is a "mamma's boy" which I have to confess I love!

We weren't sure if you have room in your next issue for our picture and, if not, maybe in the issue after that!! Here's Specs Lindberg and Nicole taking in some cuddle time.

Thank you again for sending Spec-A-Doodle (that's one of his nicknames) to our family.

Eternally Grateful,
The Lindberg Family

Letters for our Family

Many of our families participated in the Tempe Fantasy of Lights Parade on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Here's a nice letter from the organizer's of the event:

Dear Kiersten:

Thank you for participating in the Kiwanis Club of Tempe's Fantasy of Lights Parade. Although the weather was less than Arizona perfect, those people who did attend the parade were delighted to see you. Thank you for your support of this annual Tempe event which raises funds and food for the local food bank.

Best wishes for a prosperous New Year,

Charles M Lawrence, President

Linda Spears, Parade Chair



Festival of Lights



Festival of Lights Parade

dög'é dik' she-nêr' é

dög'é dik' she-nêr' é (doggy dictionary)

BATH: This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

BICYCLES: Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run alongside for a few yards; the person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

BUMP: The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

DEAFNESS: This is a malady, which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.

DOG BED: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the floor, or better yet, on their laps.

GARBAGE CAN: A container, which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

GOOSE BUMP: A maneuver to use as a last resort when the regular Bump doesn't get the attention you require... Especially effective when combined with the Sniff. See **BUMP** (above) and **SMIFF** (below).

LEAN: Every good dog's response to the command "sit!", especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

LEASH: A strap, which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

LOVE: Is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

SMIFF: A social custom to use when you greet other dogs. Place your nose as close as you can to the other dog's rear end and inhale deeply, repeat several times, or until your person makes you stop.

SOFAS: Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

THUNDER: This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrappers. When you get bored turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home.



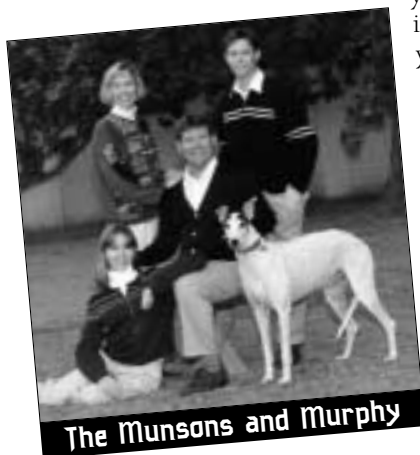
Fancie Traver before
Snack Time.



Fancie Traver After
Snack Time.



Ease & Tailer Stewart



The Munsons and Murphy



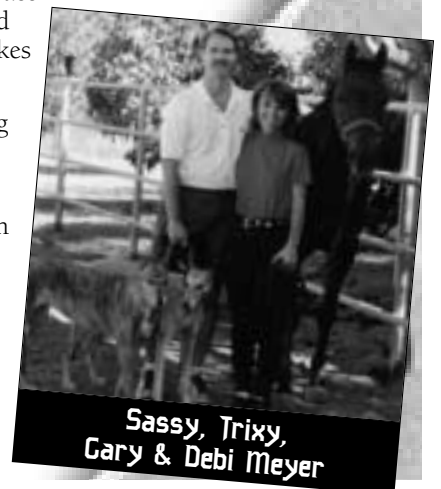
Elizabeth, Bubba &
Houston Stoltz



Jazz Cugenberger



Joyce & Penney Zygmunt



Sassy, Trixy,
Gary & Debi Meyer



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**“Is it abnormal for
my dog to act
fearful?”**
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Petsmart Schedule

Please See Site for Current Schedule.

