



# Paws & Tales

Issue 16

Summer 1998

## Notes from the Director



In Loving Memory  
~ Windy Smethurst ~

**Greetings from Arizona Adopt A Greyhound.** It's been a wet winter, and I think we're all glad to see the sun shining again. We've been busy, as usual, here at AAGI despite all the rain. We attended a few events since our last issue, and moved our kennel, which was a big job. Look further on in this newsletter for more details about our new home.

In **February** we attended the **Fountain Hills Arts Festival** and in **March** we attended the **Tempe Arts Festivals**. We are becoming a regular attraction at both of these events, and have received many calls from each. Thank you so much to the volunteers who gave their time to work at either of these Festivals, even working in the rain. *We can't tell you how much we appreciate your time.*

We also attended a few of the **Oakland A's Spring Training** games at **Phoenix Municipal Stadium** in **March**. The greyhounds were a huge hit, and I think our families all had a great time working at these games. We have printed a nice

letter later in this issue from the Oakland A's thanking us for supporting their organization. I'm sure we'll be attending next year's games, so watch the winter

newsletter for more details if you're interested in volunteering.

Finally, we hosted a volunteer meeting on **April 5** at **Phoenix Greyhound Park**. This was a great chance for everyone interested in volunteering to ask questions, learn about upcoming events, and share some fun volunteer stories. We handed out volunteer booklets with common questions and answers and had plenty of brochures and cards available for everyone to stock up on. We would like to have a volunteer meeting once a year, so if you missed this one, don't fret, we'll do it again next Spring. If you would like more information on volunteering, give us a call at 971-6935 and leave a message in mailbox 4.

With the hot weather coming, I want to remind everyone to keep your greyhounds cool. Do not take them with you in the car if you are not going to be in the car for the entire trip. It just gets too hot. And remember, if you can't walk barefoot on the pavement, neither can your greyhound. Our pets would probably prefer to spend the long, hot summer under the fan in the air conditioning watching TV!

**Have a great summer.** Our next issue will be out in September with all kinds of events for the fall. Rest up, we're going to be busy!

Cheryl



Bob Farley Hammond



Buddy Melamed & Spunky

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

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# *In Loving Memory Of*

For those of you who were not aware, Cheryl recently lost her beloved Perot. The following is something she felt compelled to write on his behalf...



**O**n April 9, my beautiful blue male, Perot (Class Warrior), died of bone cancer at the age of 9 ½. I was fortunate enough to share him for 6 ½ years. How do you thank an animal for changing your life? He was certainly partially responsible for my choosing a career in greyhound adoption. He quickly taught me that this breed is unique and special. Never assuming, he appreciated his home and the love I gave him.



**H**e always loved to go back to the race track, and his walks were the highlight of his day.

**W**ithout him I am alone. But not lonely. As I have the best companion. A memory of our times shared.

**T**o the dog that captured my heart, I thank him for his love and 3,168 other wagging tails thank him for his pioneer spirit in greyhound adoption.

**S**adly missed by,  
*His mom and his sister, Peaches*



## Water - the Source of Life Prevent Dehydration

by Dr. J. Kirk Keniston  
(reprinted with permission from Maine Greyhound  
Placement Service)

Especially with the warmer weather coming, keeping your greyhound well hydrated is becoming more important. One of the things that is easy to overlook is maintaining an adequate amount of water for your dog. Water composes approximately 60% of the standard dog's body weight. In the exceptionally lean animals (such as greyhounds), the ratio can be as high as 70%.

During the course of a day, without any extra fluid loss from exercise, diarrhea, vomiting, etc., the dog requires 88 to 132 ml per pound. This means that a typical 66 pound greyhound would require between 1200 and 1800 ml of water (approximately 1 quart). This does not include any extra losses from exercise-induced panting that could add several hundred ml. extra.

With a greyhound that is kenneled without water for a typical ten hour day of owners being at work, this means that they have to go through feast and famine cycles with their water metabolism. When they are let out, they not only need to drink nearly a quart of water, but they also need to get their food requirement. But their stomach is only so big.

When the greyhound is in the pen prior to racing, they are restricted from drinking water and frequently lose two to three pounds. They are only in these pens for four hours, so you can imagine what sort of weight loss from dehydration might be occurring over a ten hour period.

Some ways to tell if your greyhound is dehydrated, and by how much, are as follows:

Percent Dehydrations Clinical Signs  
5 to 6 Slight loss of elasticity to skin. When skin is pulled up, returns slightly less quickly to normal.  
6 to 8 Definite delay in skin to returning to normal, gums dry and tacky feeling.  
10 to 12 When skin pulled up, stays up. Possible signs of shock (rapid, weak pulse).  
12 to 15 Death is imminent.

Keeping water available at all times is essential. The best way to monitor your pet's hydration status is by feeling their gums and skin elasticity each day so you can be the first line of defense against dehydration.

## Lessons Learned From Dog Watching

(a posting from the GH-List; reprinted with permission)

**Never** pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

**Allow** the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

**When** loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

**When** it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

**Let** others know when they've invaded your territory.

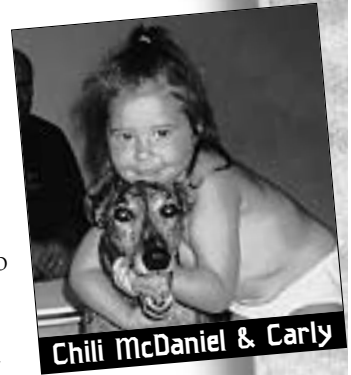
**Take** naps and stretch before rising.

**Run**, romp and play daily.

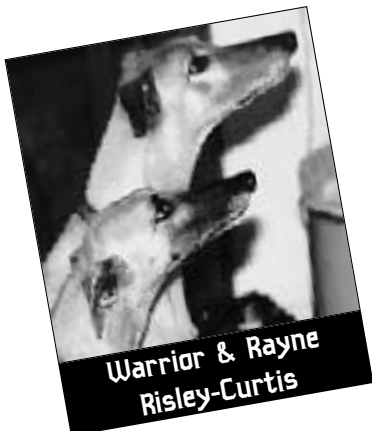
**Eat** with gusto and enthusiasm.

**Be loyal.** Never pretend to be something you're not.

**If what** you want lies buried, dig until you find it.



Chili McDaniel & Carly



Warrior & Rayne  
Risley-Curtis



Stella Nelson



Angel Flake

# P:OOPS & S:COOPS

## AAGI Has a New Home!

As we told you in our last newsletter, we recently moved our adoption kennel. For the last years we have had a great kennel in Tolleson. However the family who ran it for us decided to sell the property, so we were forced to find a new home. We were very lucky to find another racing facility nearby with room for our AAGI hounds.

The kennels, which are housed in four separate buildings, needed a few repairs. So our wonderful AAGI volunteers and staff went to work to repair roofs and buildings, clean up the runs, repair fences and make it a little more homey for our kids. The results are truly amazing! Our AAGI greyhounds now have dog doors so that they may go inside or out on their own. They have long, individual runs and big, air-conditioned kennels to relax in. Thanks to the generous donations by many of you, they have plenty of cushions and carpets and blankets to lounge around on. From the money donated, new toys were purchased to keep them busy while they're waiting for their new homes.

I must thank each and every volunteer for their time in making our new home nicer for the greyhounds.

**Henry and Midge Snook, Charles and Georgia Campbell, Bob and Susan Dittmar, Tom and Carol Visinho, Elizabeth Stoltz, Kirk and Jane Christensen, Maggie Young, Samantha Kabbel, Linda and Bill Colvin, Deb and Larry Trickel, Kiersten and Barry Kerr, and Joan Kabbel** all spent four weekends at the kennel. Henry Snook even took vacation to roof the buildings! We couldn't ask for a better crew.

The greyhounds have settled in nicely to their new home, and we hope to be here for a very long time.

## Our Web Site

Many of you are aware of Phoenix Greyhound Park's web site at:

[www.phoenixgreyhoundpark.com](http://www.phoenixgreyhoundpark.com).

They recently re-designed their web site, including the section on AAGI and greyhound adoption. We now have a newsletter on-line which we will update on a regular basis. We have listed the PetsMart location dates, as well as other events we are participating in. Look here for information on volunteer opportunities that come up between the publication dates of our printed newsletter. As always, if you have any questions, please give us a call at **971-6935, mailbox #4**.

## New T-shirts

AAGI has ordered new T-shirts and Polo Shirts in great summer colors! Many of you have expressed an interest in golf shirts, and now we have them. Stop in at the AAGI trailer at Phoenix Greyhound Park and do some shopping. If you can't get down to the trailer, don't worry, we'll have them at our Annual Picnic in the Fall (our next newsletter will have all the details).

## PetsMart Help Needed

We have a few PetsMarts that are either undermanned or have nobody attending. If anyone is interested in **committing** to one day a month at a **PetsMart** in either the East or West valley, please give us a call at **971-6935**. These are **important volunteer days**, as we really do have a large number of families adopt after seeing us there. *Thanks for the help!*



Queenie Kryka



Diamond & Jazzy Iannello



Sky Donlan

# P:OOPS & S:COOPS

## Greyhounds - A Complete Pet Owner's Manual

Our greyhound library is growing! We've just added a great new book called *Greyhounds - A Complete Pet Owner's Manual* by D. Caroline Coile, Ph.D. "Everything about adoption, purchase, care, nutrition, behavior and training, with 49 color photographs. With a special chapter titled "Understanding the Racing Greyhound." We have also just received the new edition of *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*. It has a great new look and some updated information. Stop in at the AAGI trailer to check out these two books and *Reign of the Greyhound*.

## Summer is Approaching

We've all been warned about the heat in the summer and our dog's comfort, but we need to be very careful with our canine friends while driving around town. On an average 85 degree day (average for May, maybe!) the temperature inside your car with the windows partially open will reach **102 degrees in 10 minutes**. In **30 minutes** it could reach up to **120 degrees**. When it's hot outside, most dogs, and greyhounds especially, would prefer to be inside with the air conditioner blowing or lounging in front of a fan. **Remember, the best prevention for heat exhaustion is to leave your pet in a safe, cool home.**

Also, "If you can't walk on the sidewalk in your bare feet, neither can your greyhound!" Please be careful, their pads are so delicate.

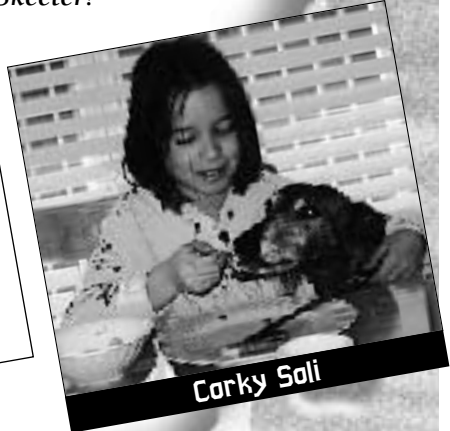
## Skeeter Did It!

Walt and Peggy Ringhoff adopted Skeeter (race name I Be Happnin Dude) in May, 1994. He is a red brindle male and is now seven years old. Walt and Peggy have been working with Skeeter in Obedience Trials, and in an A.K.C. dog show on March 21st of this year at Westworld, Skeeter qualified for his **A.K.C. Companion Dog Title in Obedience Training**. To get this award a dog must get a qualifying score of at least 170 out of a possible 200 points on three separate occasions under three different judges. Skeeter's average score was 180. He qualified in five shows.



Skeeter Ringhoff

The Ringhoff's feel that positive reinforcement and short training sessions are the key to working with greyhounds. "Hounds get bored easily, lots of praise and treats help" the Ringhoff's wrote. He is now "officially" retired again after a job well done. They are very proud of Skeeter's accomplishments, and so are we!  
**Congratulations, Skeeter!**



Corky Sali

## Letters from our Families

*Our families volunteered their time at the Oakland A's Spring Training games this spring. The following is a letter from Mike Savarino from the Oakland A's organization.*

Dear Kiersten:  
Thanks for your tremendous support of Oakland A's Spring Training baseball. As you know, the dogs were a huge hit with the fans, and the kids also had a great time with the run-the-bases contest. And thanks for your wonderful letter. I'm thrilled that you got some results. They are such beautiful animals, they deserve the best. I too look forward to next season. And I'm sure I'll take you up on your offer to visit the races.  
Once again, thanks. Your volunteers were great!  
Mike Savarino

# Letters...

## Letters from our Families

*Maricopa Kitty was adopted in November, 1996 by Becky Martin and Marty Burkett. Kitty is a 5 and a half year old brindles female.*

To my friends at AAGI:

Hope you all are doing fine, as for me, well, let me tell you - retirement is wonderful. I never knew how comfortable furniture could be. Of course, I get to rest up all week and then on weekends I have to get some exercise. Mom and Dad usually take me away at least one weekend a month. Last month we went to Flagstaff and I'll tell you it was cold - that white stuff isn't made to be walked on, but it was a fun experience and I was glad to get out of the house.

For Christmas they brought home a new playmate, a kitten, we are having the best time. We like to chase each other around the house, mom and dad just laugh and laugh at us. We are really becoming good pals. The two louder cats that live with me were glad to see the kitten come too, so now I can play with her, instead of chase them.

I'm sending my picture along with this letter, as you can see I like to visit grandmas too.

I should get back to my nap now, you all take care and thanks for everything you've done for me.

Love to all,

Kitty — Formerly Maricopa Kitty



Kitty Martin

## Letters from our Families

*Gee Golly Gosh was adopted in November, 1995 by Judy Ulmer. Golly is a red female who just turned 4 years old.*

Dear AAGI Folks!

Well, it's been almost 2 ½ years since I adopted my wonderful Golly - how time flies when you own a greyhound! She is a never ending source of joy and wonderment!

The New Year brought many changes to the Ulmer household. On 1/1/98 Golly joined 3 horses, 8 chickens, 1 goat, 1 cat and another dog (a boxer) when we moved from North Phoenix to a 2 acre "ranch" in Laveen. Gone is the timid, shy Golly and emerging is an exuberant, outgoing Golly who is living life to it's fullest! Her favorite game? To go to the back fence of the back acre and wait for the "whistle" and then turn into a streak of carmel-colored lightening as she "races" across 2 acres to the house. As she comes to a sliding stop at the back door, the "smile" on her face says it all! Our neighbors love to watch her run and marvel at her beauty and grace - many have never experienced a Greyhound up close and personal before. Of course, we promote AAGI every chance we get.

Thanks to all of you for bringing Golly into my life - she's truly wonderful.

Love, Judy



Class Actio Walsh



Princess Bolton

# We're Updating our Records!

We haven't heard from many of you. This is your last chance to stay on the newsletter mailing list. Please send in this form even if you don't wish to remain on our list so we can keep our records updated. It's very important for our database to stay current. Please help us keep it that way.

AAGI's mailing list is growing by leaps and bounds! Because our mailing list has become so large, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep track of many of you. Each time we send out a newsletter we get many returned because we have the wrong mailing address, and this costs us quite a bit in postage. Would you please help us out by filling out the following questionnaire and mailing it back to us? We'd also love to hear how your greyhounds are doing!

If you would like to remain on our mailing list, you **must** return the questionnaire below. Thank you for your time in helping us keep our database current!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Greyhound(s): *(Please give us the call name and race name your greyhound had when you first adopted him/her if you can remember it, as well as the new name)*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

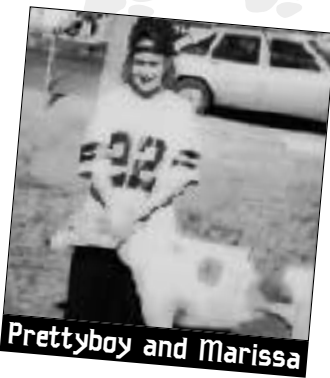
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: AAGI • 2325 E. Marmora • Phoenix, AZ 85022

# Gallery



Mary Marie Metcalf



Prettyboy and Marissa



Maya Rejebian



Kevin Hutzelman



Brice Lennon and pal...



Yagi & Ginger



Arizona Adopt a Greyhound, Inc.  
2325 East Marmora  
Phoenix, Arizona 85022

Bulk Rate  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Phoenix, AZ  
Permit No. 4204

**Address Correction Requested**

**“We haven’t  
heard from many of  
you about renewing  
your subscription to  
the newsletter...”**  
...page 7

## **Petsmart Schedule**

Please See Site for Current Schedule.

