



# Paws

# Tales

Issue 20

Summer 1999

## Notes from the Director

**Welcome!** Summer is just around the corner, and although we traditionally taper off on activities during the hot weather, our volunteers will stay busy!

We have had a fantastic winter. We attended the **Fountain Hills Spring Arts Festival**, the **Tempe Arts Festival**, and a new favorite, several **Oakland As Spring Training Games**.

We were at the **Special Olympics Basketball and Cheerleading Tournament** in Mesa, set up a booth at the **UCP "Pets Helping People" Pooch Parade**, and attended the follow up fund-raising event for **United Cerebral Palsy, The Wiener Nationals**, at **Phoenix Greyhound Park**. Our retired racers were "coaches" for the event, giving the wiener dogs much needed tips on running really fast!

And, of course, we had our **7th Annual Alumni Night** on Sunday, April 11th.

Over 100 families attended with their greyhounds for a wonderful evening at **Phoenix Greyhound Park**. I want to mention two special greyhounds that were honored that evening. **Curl** was adopted by a fantastic elderly care facility, **Kivel Campus of Care**. He's now providing many elderly residents with endless hours of love

and affection. (See page 7 for more information on Curl's good deeds.)

Our other special greyhound honored at Alumni Night is a little girl you all know. At least you have heard her story during

the adoption tour when you came to pick up your new pet. Her name is **Quartet**, and she was adopted in 1991 by Kristin and Gene Valentine. She was a wonderful racer and has had many puppies (now probably retired as well!). Quartet, who is now fifteen years old, received our "**Distinguished Senior Citizen Award**." We presented her with a new, fluffy bed and a beautiful plaque that read "**Proving that a Greyhound's love goes on and on.**"

We currently have many older dogs waiting for homes. For more details on how you can bring a "**Distinguished Senior Citizen**" into your home, read on!

As usual, **Alumni Night** was a special night for myself and the staff of **Arizona Adopt A Greyhound**. There is no better reward for the work that we do than to see these happy, healthy pets with their caring owners. We thank all of you for opening your homes to a retired racer. For those of you who were not lucky enough to be drawn to attend, please try again next year. We hope that every greyhound adopted gets the opportunity to experience the race track one more time, even if it's just for a parade!

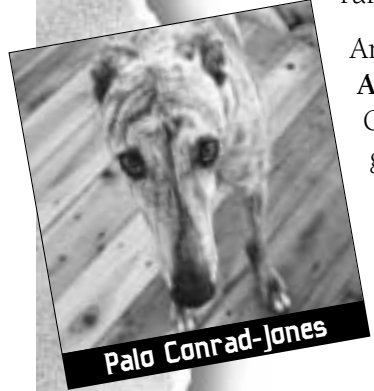
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In Loving Memory  
Sir Charles Rusinek



Lucy Rosella



Palo Conrad-Jones



Dawntay Perrotta



Quartet receiving her award at Alumni.

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# P:OOPS & S:COOPS

## Staff Changes at AAGI

AAGI has had a change of staff! A special goodbye to **Sam Kabbel** who we'll miss so much. Sam is undertaking her own business and after much soul-searching has decided to focus all of her attention on her new venture. We are also losing **Joan Albamont**, Sam's mom, who has decided to leave to pursue her growing pet sitting business.

We are happy to welcome Sharon Diebel. Sharon will be coordinating our PetsMart Meet and Greets. She will also attend all volunteer events to help things run smoothly, and work Saturday evenings at Phoenix Greyhound Park. We plan to keep Sharon very busy!

We would also like to welcome **Adrienne Savoy!** Adrienne will assist **Deb Trickel** with adoptions in the

AAGI trailer on Friday evenings as well as helping with all of our events throughout the year.

Finally, we are happy to welcome **Esther Marie Capps**, who will be helping with our busy adoption line. We get many, many calls on our adoption hotline, so Esther will be helping to return calls and answer questions.

## Volunteer Information

While we definitely slow down during the summer, don't forget our **PetsMart** dates and volunteer opportunities at **Phoenix Greyhound Park**. These are great, air-conditioned locations to go to get out with your greyhound during the hot weather. An updated schedule of our **PetsMart** visits is located on the back page of this issue of *Paws and Tales*. We can always use help, so give us a call at **971-6935, mailbox 3** if you need more information, or if you would like to volunteer at the track. We'll be busier than ever in the fall, so rest up!

## Fooooore!

Plans have begun for our first annual **AAGI Golf Tournament**, which will be held in the Spring of 2000. While we're still in the planning stages, keep us in mind. We'll need lots of help. This event will be our major fundraiser for the year, replacing beer sales at the Cardinals' Games, which we will no longer participate in. Anyone interested in helping with planning this golf tournament

should call **Michele Rebeor** at 812-9205 or e-mail her at [luvagreyhnd@sprynet.com](mailto:luvagreyhnd@sprynet.com).

## Flea and Tick Prevention

The flea and tick season is about to hit, and prevention is the best method of control. **Adams Flea and Tick Shampoo and Mist** is a safe method of keeping these pests under control, as well as **Frontline, Bio-Spot** and **Peventick Collars** (available from your Veterinarian). You can purchase the Adams products from us in our adoption trailer, so give us a call and we'll let you know when we'll be there. Spraying your house and yard is imperative, but remember to talk with your pest control company about using safe chemicals and lower levels to protect your family and greyhounds.

## New Greyhound License Plates GREYHND

We have them! The gorgeous new copper license plates for the front of your car. The cost is \$15.00, and they're printed in red, blue, green or black lettering! Call us and we'll let you know when we'll be in our adoption trailer.

## AAGI Gift Shop Hours

For those of you needing collars, leashes, muzzles, T-shirts, and other merchandise, the adoption trailer hours are as follows: Friday evenings from 6:00 - 6:45 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Saturday evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. On Saturdays, please find the AAGI volunteer in the Grandstand or Clubhouse of Phoenix Greyhound Park and they will let you into the adoption trailer. Please be considerate of families that are there to adopt a greyhound, and be patient while they finish their business before entering the trailer.

## Adoption Fee Increase

It has become necessary to increase our adoption fee to \$150.00. This fee covers spaying or neutering, all vaccinations, a microchip and a dental on the greyhound. Dr. Hunt, who has been so wonderful about taking care of our greyhounds for us (he works on close to 400 a year!), will be getting well-deserved raise. Still a great deal for a 45 mile-per-hour couch potato! 🐾



Maverick Rebeor



# Be Gentle!

## The Gentle Leader® Headcollar

By Sam Kabbel

When we first gazed into the eyes of our adorable new greyhound, we had hopes and dreams of a devoted dog that would eagerly obey our every wish. For many of our families, that dream has become a reality! For the rest of us, there is help available! Jumping, pulling on the leash, lunging at other dogs, sound familiar?

**The Gentle Leader®** is a head collar, much like that which horses wear. It has 2 soft nylon straps – the collar portion fits high and snug at the top of the neck, and the nose loop fits loosely across the base of the dog’s muzzle.

**The Nose Loop** – One of the ways a pack leader will demonstrate his position is by gently but firmly grasping a subordinate’s muzzle in his mouth. This sends a clear message as to who is boss. **The Gentle Leader’s®** nose loop encircles your dog’s muzzle in the same manner.

**The Neck Strap** – Dog’s have a natural opposition reflex, they pull against pressure! Any collar that puts pressure on the front of the dog’s

throat increases the dog’s instinct to pull forward! **The Gentle Leader®** applies gentle pressure to the back of the neck, so your dog instinctively pulls back, not forward!

With **The Gentle Leader®** you direct your dog’s head and his body naturally follows. If your dog tries to pull forward, you simply need to hold the leash in place and his nose and head turn back to look at you. It is virtually impossible for him to drag you down the street!

With the new **Gentle Leader®** power steering on your dog, you can control jumping, lunging, pulling and many other unruly behaviors. It is much more humane than a choker and more effective than a Halti collar.

If you are interested in the **Gentle Leader®**, they can be purchased through **AAGI** or **Canine Behavior Concepts**. Please call for more information. ☎



King Marshall

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Tony Festa

Tony has adopted five greyhounds from our program, the first in 1993, and let me tell you, he keeps his kids busy. Tony attends a PetsMart every weekend, and volunteers for every single event we participate in. It exhausts me to just think about it! He does all of this while holding down two full-time jobs. He volunteers tirelessly for AAGI. We thank him and his greyhounds for all of their hard work. He has been instrumental

in helping many new families decide to adopt a greyhound.



Ari Rosella

## Kathleen Reese

Kathleen adopted her first greyhound, Bridget, in May, 1997. She just recently adopted her second greyhound, Driver, this month. Kathleen spends many weekends with her greyhounds, promoting greyhound adoption and AAGI. She’s a wonderful volunteer who seems to have a way with people. So many times when families call us to start the adoption program, they mention meeting Kathleen somewhere, and how she helped them decide to take the plunge.

AAGI would like to thank Tony, Kathleen and every one of our valued volunteers, so many we can’t list them all! We absolutely could not be as successful as we are without all of you. We’ll try to recognize more of our “star” volunteers in coming issues of *Paws and Tales*. Keep up the great work, everyone! ☎



# Traveling With Your Pets

Although most of us leave our greyhounds home when we take our summer and holiday vacations, some of you may be planning to take your pet along with you. While greyhounds are wonderful travelers, careful planning will make your trip go much smoother.

If you're traveling by air, make sure you find out your airline's requirements for animals traveling with you. Most airlines will not permit large animals to fly in or out of Sky Harbor Airport when the weather gets hot. Space is also limited, so be sure to make your reservations early.

Whether you plan to fly or drive, a trip to the vet is in order before you leave. Most airlines will require a health certificate to be issued by your veterinarian within a month of your departure. If you're visiting a foreign country, they will require a health certificate to enter the country. You can talk with your vet at this time about any

medications you may need to take with you, or that will aid your pet while traveling. Make sure your greyhound gets a clean bill of health before leaving. If your vet determines that your pet has a health problem, he or she would probably be better off staying home.



Daniel, Amy & Midas Schultz

You will also need a large carrier, big enough for your greyhound to stand up and turn around. Airlines will require one, but he is better off in a crate even when traveling by car. Your pet will be far safer in a crate in the event of an accident than he would be if he was loose in the car or van.

Make sure the crate is strong and secure, and is level. Place in a well-ventilated area of your car so he gets plenty of air. Never, ever leave your pet in a car when the weather is warm, even 80 degrees. Your car will heat up quickly and your greyhound will die. If you are driving and choose not to use a crate, don't let your greyhound hang his head out of the car. He could be seriously injured by flying debris.

Make sure you have current tags on your greyhound. An accurate ID tag, license, and microchip tag are a must. You might consider letting AAGI know where

you'll be in case your pet gets loose while you're traveling. We have many people call us when they can't find you. Keep our phone number with your travel documents so you can call if you lose your dog on your trip. Also keep a recent photo with you, a record of her tattoos and microchip number and any other descriptions you may need to help identify and locate your lost pet. You will want to have proof of vaccinations and your greyhound's health record with you as well. **Never, ever** let your greyhound off her leash when traveling! Be very careful opening and closing her crate door and vehicle doors so she doesn't bolt.

Don't forget to take plenty of food, water and any medications your greyhound needs. It's always preferable to keep your pet on the same food and routine to eliminate some of the stress from traveling.

Be sure to research your destination as many parks and recreation areas do not allow pets. You may also want the name of a vet for emergency purposes. Give us a call and we'll put you in touch with a greyhound adoption area near your destination for referrals, if necessary.

We have brochures written by the American Kennel Club, "*Canine Travel Tips*," if you would like more information. Or, visit their web site at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org). Another great reference is *Vacationing With Your Pet* by Eileen Barish, which lists hotels, motels, etc. in the US and Canada that are pet friendly.

Above all, have a great trip and enjoy your pet's companionship! 🐾

## Greyhound Pet Sitters

<b>Donald Baird</b> (40th Street & Thunderbird).....	953-0279
<b>Wayne &amp; Kate Bouton</b> (Higley & McKellips).....	396-0293
<b>Lisa and Brent Lonius</b> (Northern & Central).....	395-3986
<b>Midge &amp; Larry Snook</b> (19th Ave. & Cactus).....	997-7964
<b>Ann-Mari Schneider</b> (Higley and Baseline).....	830-6630

*Book early, these sitters fill up fast!*

# Better With Age

5

We ran the following article a few years ago and are reprinting it to remind you of our older greyhounds that need homes. We currently have five distinguished senior citizens.

## Just Like Wine... AAGI and Greyhounds Just Get Better With Age — By Maggie Young

We're not getting older... we're getting better! Like most things in life, experiencing greyhound adoptions is an excellent teacher. Information, evaluation, screening and counseling have all gotten easier and better as AAGI has matured. After about 4,000 adoptions, we better have learned a thing or two.

In conversations with other adoption programs around the country, we find we all have a new challenge to face - the problem of older greyhounds that have been in their adoptive homes for a number of years and through no fault of their own must now return to the adoption program. The best adoption programs (including AAGI) require that families must return a greyhound to the program if they can no longer keep it. This is certainly the best policy for a greyhound whose owner dies, divorces or encounters other hardships.

The vast majority of families who adopt expect to keep their greyhound "until death do us part." Unfortunately, the unhappy realities of life occasionally intrude. Re-placing younger greyhounds usually does not present a problem, in fact, many of us in the adoption "biz" think this is about the easiest way to adopt a hound!

But finding a home for an 8 or 10 or 12 year old is not so easy. Understandably, adopting a greyhound (and of course instantly falling in love) with the knowledge that your time together will be short is a hard request to make. Anyone that knows and loves greyhounds knows no life is long enough. Why would anyone want to adopt a senior citizen?

There's a good answer that's easy to understand. Imagine that your beloved greyhound has to be returned to the AAGI program because your family has met a terrible misfortune. Wouldn't you rest easier knowing that your pet would live out its life with a loving, approved AAGI family? Of course, this would have to be a special family; people that understood that the most important thing about greyhound adoption is doing the best we can for our greyhounds. Wouldn't you want a family like this for your pet? If your answer is yes, you may want to recheck your couch... there might be a little more room there than you thought.

If you think you'd like to consider helping a special greyhound in the future give Cheryl a call. She'll

put you on the "Golden Oldies" list, and perhaps one of the following is perfect for your family!

### Fassie - 9 years old

I'm a 63 lb. dark brindle female. I've had three litters of puppies, was a very good mama, and now I'm looking for a home. I am a real sweetie and have an excellent figure. Kids are fine, little pets are fine, but I prefer no cats.

### Bronc - 8 years old

I'm an 83 lb. red male. After standing at stud for a while, I'm ready to move on to other things. I'm a big guy, very friendly, good personality, prefer kids ages seven and older (just because of my size) and get along well with other animals - except cats, I really don't get along with cats!

### Al - 10 1/2 year old

I'm the 80 lb., blue brindle old man of the group - I'm perfect! I really don't do anything besides look handsome and shutter when I see the others doing things not quite right. I love kids, cats, adults and as I said - I'm perfect!

### Crazy - 9 years old

I'm the smallest of the group. I'm red, about 52 lbs., and I'm darling! I get along well with everyone, however, I could really forget about cats. I guess if I could choose, I'd take a home with other dogs!

### Catch - 9 years old

I left the track around the age of 5. I've been hanging out as a stud dog and now I'm ready for a home. I'm 73 pounds, and a red fawn male with a white face (very handsome!). I prefer a family with female dogs and no cats.

### Miracle - 8 years old

I'm retired from a wonderful racing career. I'm an 81 pound brindle male - years ago I had a right rear broken hock, however, I'm all healed up - no limp, and my leg looks good. I'm great with cats and small animals, however I prefer kids over six. 🐾



# Letters

## Letters from our Families

*Elisabeth Waters adopted Natasha, race name Pj's Redhead, in February, 1998. She has since moved to Houston, Texas, but wrote us this nice letter not long ago - another reminder to keep your greyhound secure!*

Hey gang!

I just got your most recent newsletter, I'm glad to hear about the happenings in Arizona and AAGI. I wanted to write and let you know Natasha (A.K.A. Redhead) is doing great! She's so happy and we're glad she's a part of our family. She is so gentle and loving, and my son (Cole- 3 1/2) eats her up with love every day. He especially enjoys covering Natasha up with his own personal blanket. They are a great pair.

I also wanted to let you know of our pseudo-misfortune. When I (we) moved to Texas we were staying with my mother while we were in the process of buying a new home. Natasha adapted well. Then, we moved into my new place. We installed a dog door, so Natasha could "do her thing," which led to the patio, which led to the garage. One day I came home, opened the garage with the remote and found Natasha dashing past my car as the door opened. I pulled in to park, but when I got out and started to look for her she was gone. We drove around the neighborhood for hours, and asked everyone we saw to be on the lookout.


I assumed if the city pound picked her up, they would find the chip and get in touch. So, I only put a few notices around the area. Two weeks passed, and I assumed we had lost her for good. Then, my mother's worker (she was re-modeling her house) said a woman came by from the greyhound society. I called her and found out she had Natasha. She explained that Natasha had been at the city pound and was due to be

destroyed that day. But, she has a deal with them that they contact her before destroying any greyhound. She accepted Natasha, and began her search for me. She couldn't contact me by Natasha's ID tag because it still had our Arizona information. But, she was knowledgeable enough to check her blue ID chip tag. Then, I guess AAGI gave her the only known address you had for me.

Anyway, we got our girl back and we fixed the problem with the escape route. We walk every day around the neighborhood and she is always the topic of conversation. Keep doing what you're doing!

Thanks!

*Elisabeth Waters*

**NOTE:** AAGI has the same arrangement with our local animal control. It's called the *New Hope* program. 




**Collin, Natasha & Elisabeth Waters**

## Notes from the Director... continued

AAGI has been adopting retired racers since 1990 - and have now placed over 4,000 greyhounds. As we reach another goal in our organization, I again want to thank all of the families for considering our program and to let you know that your constant support and participation does not go unnoticed.

For those of you traveling this summer, we've printed a list of **Greyhound Petsitters** (see page 7) around the Valley. Don't forget to book early, as these sitters get very busy during the summer months. For tips on traveling with your pet, see the article "**Traveling with your Pet**" later in this issue of *Paws and Tales*.

Have a great summer. Happy Hounding!

*Cheryl* 

## Basic Canine Health Cookies - Homemade treats for your sweety!

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup dry milk
- 6 Tbls safflower oil
- 1 tsp. salt garlic to taste

There isn't any rising agent, so recipe works best with cold ingredients.

Mix by hand until blended.

Gradually add and mix 1 1/2 cups cold water until mixture is workable.

Roll out with rolling pin and cut into cute shapes.

Recipe makes 12 - 18 cookies.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

Optional ingredients: seeds, molasses, honey, vitamins, brewers yeast, raw wheat germ, lecithin, cinnamon or other flavorings. 🐾

## Dog Property Laws

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my mouth, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in anyway.
6. If I'm chewing something up, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it just looks like mine, it's mine.
8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
10. If it's broken, it's yours. 🐾

## Letters from our Families

*The following touching letter is an internal memo written by an employee of an elderly care facility Kivel Campus of Care. They passed it on to us so that we could print it. This facility adopted Curl (race name Symmetrical Curl), a 7 year old brindle male, on February 1, 1999.*

*In the short time he has been with Kivel, he's made quite an impression.*

March 14, 1999

Subject: Kivel Curl ("Wonder Puppy")

You must hear this incredible story about Curl: last Sunday, Curl was wandering around Pavilion North collecting his usual ration of hugs and kisses from staff and residents. Someone was visiting with a baby, who was on the floor in a carrier. Curl was "working the crowd," when he came to the baby - sniffed it from top to toe, wagged his tail non-stop, and looked very interested - suddenly the baby reached out and grabbed Curl's ear - YANK!! - Curl just stood there, and patiently waited for the little hand to relax. What a good boy!

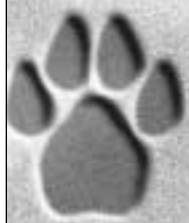
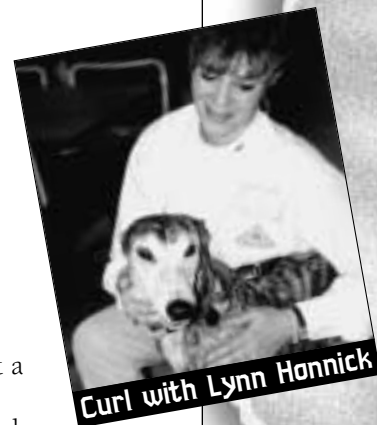
Then, he drifted toward Millie Anwalt's room, where she was resting on her low bed, sedated from pain medication. He slowly approached the bed, and stood near her without a sound. After perhaps 2 minutes, he drew closer to the bed, sniffed near Millie, and slowly worked his muzzle under her hand. He looked toward her — no response — so he pushed further, until her hand was covering his eyes.

As I watched, Millie's left hand began to move. As she feebly stroked his head, Curl tucked his hind quarters and sat next to her. I tip-toed away, feeling certain that Curl knew Millie was in trouble, and he comforted her. She never opened her eyes, and probably didn't consciously realize Curl was even there, but a connection was made on some level. I only wish you could have witnessed this personally.

Signed,  
Sheila Yeirtaugh

Note: We were informed that Millie died three days later.

**If you are interested in volunteering with your greyhound in a nursing home, we have a few around the Valley that would like the visits. Give us a call at 971-6935, mailbox 3 and we'll give you more details. We have a few families who currently volunteer at facilities around town. They would be glad to answer your questions. Both the owner and the greyhounds find it so rewarding. And the patients - they just can't get or give enough love from their visitors! 🐾**





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Phoenix, Arizona 85022

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**"Just Like Wine...  
AAGI and  
Greyhounds Just Get  
Better With Age"**

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## **PetsMart Schedule**

Please See Site for Current Schedule.

