



NEEDLE-NEWS

Volume 3 / Issue 2 / November 27, 2009

WELCOME TO NEEDLE-NOSE

It's hard to believe, but another year is nearly over. It has been a very busy one for Needle-Nose Greyhound Adoption. At our annual barbeque in August this year, we were happy to host Kathy and Jeff Bowman, our adoption contacts in West Virginia. Our group was also present at the annual Hugs for Hounds event in Breslau and if that weren't enough, it was our busiest year yet for adoptions. With 2 runs to pick up Florida dogs in Buffalo and 4 times meeting up in Pennsylvania for West Virginia dogs, our group has conducted 25 placements of greyhounds in forever homes during this year alone. That brings our grand total to 65 since our humble beginnings in November 2006, and we couldn't be more pleased.

What follows are just a few articles that as a greyhound owner, lover or both, you may find of interest. There is some information on greyhound health and well-being, along with some interesting tidbits about what some group members and the group in general has been up to since our last newsletter in the spring of this year.

There are pictures of Needle-Nose hounds along with accompanying stories and memories of the impact they have made on the people who love them.

When Needle-Nose began, our goal was to provide friendly, timely and accurate information to the public about ex-racing greyhound adoption. As a result of our success in that vein, we have been able to offer quality service to both potential and existing adopters and to thereby achieve quality placements of ex-racing greyhounds in need of a home. To the many who have helped this group achieve the excellence it has, thank you.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Needle-News as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you.

(Don't forget to order a Greyt Hounds 2010 calendar for under your tree.)

Happy Holidays!

Elizabeth Hunt, Editor, Needle-News



Greyt Scott! Get out the Seismograph! There's a Whole Lot of Shakin' Goin' On!

Sometimes I'm pulled out of a sound sleep in the middle of the night, yanked reluctantly into wakefulness by the feeling that Toronto is being rocked by an earthquake registering 6.0 on the Richter scale. The tremors are usually accompanied by the prolonged sound of scraping, and the ordeal can last up to

3 full minutes, punctuated by a contented sigh that almost makes me forgive the fact that I'm now clinging to the edge of the bed, shivering, with only

my flannel nightie to keep me warm.

The "earthquake" is almost always caused by one of my hounds "nesting" on my bed, digging to China, creating just the perfect combination of ripples and valleys in a wad of flannelette sheets and duvets which have been stolen away from me while I slept.

Nesting is an instinct that is as old as the Greyhound breed, and it has more to do with bedding reconnaissance than with perfecting the mattress. Our hounds are following survival instincts that may date back to 1200 BC; they're carefully checking for snakes, spiders, scorpions or other poisonous and uninvited guests that may be lying in wait among the folds of fabric, or in ancient days, among the straw, twigs and grass.

Not all Greyhounds nest to the same degree - some just take a quick glance, paw once or twice at the bed, and con-



fidently collapse with a happy little snort. Mine dig with gusto, making sure their little claws hook the fabric so that they can get down to the next layer just in case something sinister is hiding there. Over time, they rip through the fabric and begin to dig craters in their foam mattresses. Now I cover their beds in fabrics that don't have such an obvious or loose weave - thick fleece and faux suede - in the hopes that I won't have to re-cover them again in a couple of months.

Now if they'd just share the blankets...



Remembering the Needle-Nose Mascot - Our Most Lovable Heart Dog, Mac's Black Jack

Most of you have noticed by now, a lovely black greyhound whose picture adorns the Needle-Nose website and calendar each year. His name is Black Jack, and he was chosen as the group's mascot when back in 2006, four ladies formerly with the group GLOHW (Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton-Wentworth), decided to form their very own adoption group. Needle-Nose as we know it was born.

Why did we choose Black Jack to be the mascot? The short answer is, he was very special and unique (as everyone's greyhound is to them), yet he remained an accurate representation of all that a greyhound is. Most importantly, we chose him because he was the ideal "ambassahound" (as we in greyhound circles like to call it). (I suppose he figured he may as well be, as he was born wearing a "tuxedo", so to speak.) What does "ambassahound" mean, you may ask? Well, it means that because of his calm, friendly nature he was the perfect greyhound for going on home visits for the purpose of greyhound adoption. During the 5-1/2 years he was with us, Black Jack accompanied me on a whopping 65 home visits. (Thanks to Brenda and Geoff Aston for always keeping such copious records back then; their labour of love continues today for Needle-Nose!) During that period, Black Jack also served as big brother to two foster dogs and even visited two other recently adopted greyhounds that were having trouble walking on lead. Little did he know what an unforgettable difference he was making in his retirement years to further the wonderful cause of ex-racing greyhound adoption!

"Calling your dog a heart dog is kind of like referring to your significant other or spouse as your soul mate...this is the one dog in your life, up until now and likely forever, that will remain nearest and dearest to your heart."

Black Jack was our family's first greyhound, and my "heart dog". Calling your dog a heart dog is kind of like referring to your significant other or spouse as your soul mate. It means that this is the one dog in your life, up until now and likely forever, that will remain nearest and dearest to your heart. His 15th birthday would have been this past September 4th, so I thought it appropriate to commemorate it by sharing this article about him. It is my hope that what follows will serve to introduce Black Jack to those who never had the opportunity to know him.

Black Jack (his racing name was Mac's Black Jack) was born on September 4, 1994 on Patrick McMillon's farm in West Virginia. After racing school, he returned to race for Patrick and his brother Ralph McMillon at Tri-State Greyhound Park in Cross Lanes, West Virginia. He was a stakes racer, which means he graded all the way up to AA and raced there for



a while before grading down and eventually retiring, just shy of his fifth birthday. In September 1999, my husband Pierre and I went down to West Virginia with a group of other greyhound aficionados to visit Patrick's greyhound farm (a lovely place) and pay a visit to the Tri-State Greyhound Park. While there, we were privileged to see Patrick and Ralph's racing kennels at the track (a place where folks not involved in racing are usually denied access.) There on the bottom row of crates was our Black Jack. He was one of the greyhounds staying there, even though he was no longer racing. An honour in itself as retired greyhounds are usually shuttled off fairly quickly to stay in the adoption kennel. Pierre and I were given our choice from among Black Jack and five other greyhounds to adopt as our own. It was a difficult decision, but based on personality reviews from Patrick, we chose Black Jack. It was a sound decision as Black Jack proved to be a wonderful dog.

Black Jack had a very pampered retirement with our family. He enjoyed coming to work with me just after we adopted him as I was then working at a dog daycare. There, he would lounge around all day on the many sofas for the dogs and bark loudly at the other dogs when he wanted to play. At home, he loved playing with stuffy toys and amassed over 50 fuzzy and not so fuzzy creatures in the time that we had him. Remarkably, he rarely destroyed them, but usually he would somehow manage to disable whatever noise-making device was inside.

"....we threw him real parties complete with dog treats, cake, balloons, party hats and of course, other doggie guests."

What I think is most notable in Black Jack's life of leisure were his many birthday celebrations. For almost every birthday, we threw him real parties complete with dog treats, cake, balloons, party hats and of course, other doggie guests. Black
(Cont'd on next page)

Remembering Our Beloved Mascot Mac's Black Jack

(Cont'd from previous page)

Jack loved all the attention, but true to his nature, he was just as happy to return to being "the only dog" when it was time for his furry friends to leave.

Black Jack was popular with children and he loved them more intensely than he did adults. Even while he was still racing, his owner and trainer Patrick McMillon's 5-year-old son would climb into Black Jack's crate in the racing kennel and Black Jack did not mind sharing the space one bit. Black Jack loved the neighbourhood children and I know they loved him. I once heard one young neighbour boy passing by our house say to his friend, "There's Black Jack's house." Our hound's friendly reputation was spreading! Two pre-teen girls in our neighbourhood (my husband referred to them as Black Jack's girlfriends) would periodically ring the doorbell and ask to walk Black Jack. I am happy to say even though he was just a baby at the time, our son Luc would squeal with delight upon seeing Black Jack walk by.

A few fun facts about Black Jack

He would often let his tongue hang out of his mouth during naps, sometimes to the point where it would actually feel dry to the touch! (Yes, I purposefully touched it to see – it was bizarre!) At night Black Jack remained just as serious about getting his sleep and if my husband and I spent too much time getting settled for the night, he would let out this moan as if to say, "Come on already, I'm tired!" Though he spent lots of time lounging as most greyhounds do, he learned to bark whenever he wanted to play (I think he learned that from the dogs in the dog daycare) and if he was lying down while barking, his toes would hilariously flare out with each bark! Black Jack was such a "chow-hound" that all you would have to say was "cookie" and he would come running with his ears up, which was funny as the tips of his ears were too floppy to ever stand up. Black Jack relished the change of season to cooler weather and loved to romp wildly and dig madly in newly fallen snow. He loved to "hip check" you when walking along side you in the winter while wearing his sweater-like coat. Black Jack also had the most soft and luxurious charcoal black coat I have ever felt on a greyhound.



Luc and Black Jack

Our Black Jack began to slow down in June 2005 and died on July 7th of that year, just shy of his 11th birthday. He had been suffering from dilated cardio myopathy, or to be more general, heart failure. It was heartbreaking to lose him. As our first child was only eight months old at the time, Black Jack was like one of our own children. A greyhound's life is far too short, but Black Jack's full and happy life proves how truly rich it can be. As I think back on it I am truly amazed at how much of a difference he made in so many others' lives – greyhound and human alike. Though my heart still aches from missing him, I know Black Jack would have wanted me to go on and to be happy. He would have been proud of the fact that the work to promote greyhound adoption still marches on.

As I remember Black Jack in years to come, I will think of all the happy times at his birthday parties. I believe that such memories are true to how Black Jack would have wanted to be remembered, with feelings of joy and thanksgiving for the wonderful gift we have all been given - the life experience.

I am happy to share the memory of Black Jack with Needle-News readers. It warms my heart to know that you help keep his memory alive, not only by reading this article but every time you look at a Needle-Nose calendar or log on to the Needle-Nose website. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the privilege.

Elizabeth

Friends for Life - U.S.S At Last (aka Bella)...and Baby Lauren

by Sandra Hall

Sandra Hall is a member of Needle-Nose Greyhound Adoption and a recent adopter of Bella (U.S.S. At Last), a brindle female.

Our first greyhound Roxanne came to us at 14 months of age and at that time was registered as the 13th greyhound into Canada. (The Canadian government kept a record back then because there was only one adoption group.) Our Roxanne joined the Therapy Dog program only one year into its invention. She enjoyed working as a Therapy Dog all her life until the ripe-old age of 14-1/2. After her passing, I continued to be active with the Therapy Dog program, and currently serve as the Halton area assistant coordinator. I am also a member of the Halton Leash Free dog group, and an instigator in organizing and facilitating the greyhound-only hour which takes place in the leash-free Prospect Park in Acton at 1 p.m. every Sunday.

Fast forward to September of 2008 when our daughter, Lauren (the biped), arrived in our lives. Initially she was scared of all men, dogs, and cats, so as animal lovers we knew we had our work cut out for us. Through the kindness of many friends who are handlers of St John Ambulance Therapy Dogs and their special canines, we were able to gradually work through Lauren's apprehension and help her conquer her fear of dogs. (Lauren's Dad, Jeff however, remains hopeful that Lauren doesn't overcome her fear of men until she is, oh, thirty!) We also have two cats in our home, and fortunately Lauren quickly fell in love with them once she was no longer afraid.

"It was a wonderful feeling to know we would once again enjoy the company of a greyhound in our home and we were in great anticipation!"

A few months after Lauren's arrival, certain that by then she was over her initial trepidation of dogs, I sent a feeler out to my long-time friends Brenda and Geoff Aston of Needle-Nose Greyhound Adoption. My inquiry included a long list of requirements for a potential hound, including the following characteristics for the dog's personality: the greyhound must be kid friendly, cat friendly, dog friendly, okay on car rides, okay on elevators, have an excellent temperament so that she could pass the Therapy Dog test, and young so that training could last a long time. The wish list included my desire for a female brindle, but those specifications were just incidentals, not absolute requirements. It was a wonderful feeling to know we would once again enjoy the company of a greyhound in our home and we were in great anticipation!

By December Brenda and Geoff Aston were on the patrol looking for our perfect match.

What seemed to me as an impossible request for a new



greyhound, seemed effortless for Needle-Nose. They found Bella and she would be available to us by the Spring (she had failed racing school and never even made it to the track... lucky us!) Bella came home on April 23, 2009 and I must say that a more perfect match could not have been found! Bella loves Lauren and our two cats, and vice versa. In fact, whenever Lauren is out of the house, little Bella goes on patrol looking for her in every room. The same is true for Lauren; when away from home without her Bella, many witnesses can attest that all you hear her saying is 'T?' (Petite Bella shortens to 'T') in a non-stop fashion for two-year-old Lauren.



Perhaps we are crazy having two two-year-old girls in the house, but apart from the number of feet they each have, both are happy-go-lucky peas in a pod. We are fortunate to have them both in our lives, and for sure they are fast friends!

Dip into the 2009 Needle-Nose Picnic!

About 70 people and their dogs attended our 3rd annual Barbecue/Picnic on August 15. It was our great pleasure to share the day with our guests, Kathy, Jeff, Kyndal and McKenzie Bowman from West Virginia. This was a wonderful opportunity for our adopters to talk to Kathy about the life of their dogs at the track and what goes into choosing the right dog for a family. We were also fortunate to have Liz Tabor here with her merchandise from House of Earl. Thanks Liz for your generous donation to our raffle. The weather was wonderful and as you can see from the pictures, both "fur kids" and "skin kids" enjoyed the pool!



Counter clockwise from top: Jager takes a dip with hounds Indie and Jada; Jeff and Kathy Bowman, daughter McKenzie and Greyhound friend Chief (Elizabeth Hunt) came from West Virginia to share our picnic lunch; Liberty Karp and hounds in Aston's mega playground; It's Raffle Time - Brenda picks the winners!; Hounds lounge in the shade to escape the heat; Centre: a lively game of Musical Mats; Tallulah (Cassandra Weimann) cools it in the wading pool. To view more images, go to needlenose.ca and click on the photo gallery.



Pet First Aid Course: Practical Knowledge, Peace of Mind

by Lesley Cadham

I wish I'd had the Pet First Aid course under my belt the day Becky's dewclaw was torn off, or the night she was choking on a biscuit. I may have stayed a little calmer, thought the necessary next steps through a little more carefully, and confidently delivered the Heimlich Manoeuvre, now known as Abdominal Thrusts.

Instead, immediately after the dewclaw incident, I zipped off to a nearby veterinary clinic to have her wound checked, even though I was pretty sure the injury only required a small bandage to keep the dirt out while the tiny wound healed. It turned out I was correct - there was nothing the vet needed to do for Becky and he suggested that I simply keep the wound clean and bandaged for a couple of days, and of course pay for the visit on my way out.

But it was watching Becky try to regurgitate a biscuit for what seemed like hours - but was in reality was likely under a minute - that spurred me to take the Pet First Aid course. My heart pounding and my adrenalin gathering in preparation for a breakneck drive to the closest emergency veterinary clinic, I wrapped my arms around her tummy and tried to do Abdominal Thrusts. I had no idea whether I was doing it correctly, but somehow the biscuit was dislodged and my heart rate eventually returned to normal.

Kinsale Academy/Doggie Minder offers a 10-1/2 hour, one-day Pet First Aid course that covers - at a brisk pace - some information about preventative "medicine" and holistic care, and hands-on instruction for emergencies, including how to do the Abdominal Thrusts, check vital signs and administer basic CPR. There are also tips on everything from boosting your pet's immune system, to inducing vomiting should your pet sniff out and chow down on family-size chocolate bar, to taking care of an animal who has been hit by a car. I even learned how to clip my hounds' nails, and to check for signs of disease.

Becky came with me to be my "patient" - she's sweet and tolerant and didn't bat an eyelash when I pretended her ear had been torn off in an accident, and then bandaged her head appropriately. For her part in helping me to achieve higher education, she was awarded a certificate declaring that she'd survived the Pet First Aid course.

The course drew a few people who had each recently purchased dog boarding kennels, and a woman about to become a dog groomer. One of the students made the long drive from London.

But you don't have to be launching your own business to justify taking the course - if you don't have any previous first aid experience, you're doing yourself - and your hounds - a huge favour by taking a course. I'm convinced it will pay for

itself over the years, if only in peace of mind.

The course should in no way replace veterinary care - it should complement it. There may be times when you can't get to the vet immediately; cottagers, hikers or campers in remote areas may face that eventuality. Your hands-on experience in the moments after an accident, monitoring your pet's ABC's - Airway, Breathing and Circulation - and knowing how to deal with the challenges, can mean the



difference between your pet's life and death.

I'm well on my way to stocking my First Aid kit. Kinsale Academy provides a list of kit contents, and instruction on how to use the contents depending on the situation.

A dollar store is an excellent and inexpensive source for some of the items you'll need. Other First Aid kit ingredients are fashioned from everyday household items - pantyhose, knee high hosiery, paint stir sticks, paper towel roll cores - you get the picture.

So how much do you know?

Q: Your hound is involved in a serious accident. What's the first thing you should do?

A: Muzzle and appropriately restrain him. He'll be upset and confused, and may exercise his survival instincts.

Q: It's a hot day and your hound has had a serious accident. He is going into shock; will the heat of the day help or hinder?

A: Help...your hound needs to stay warm and the heat will help to work against the shock, however, you'll still need to exercise shock intervention - then call the vet to let him know you're on your way.

In addition to Kinsale Academy, there are a number of other facilities offering pet first aid in the Toronto area including Tailblazers, Petopia and Absolutely Creative Training Solutions (offering a Red Cross certified course).

Needle-News Nips

The Needle-Nose Family Celebrates Two Weddings...



Patricia Kereliuk and Michael Fairman, who were married on August 8, 2009



Brett Aston and Natasha Ateah, wed on August 29, 2009

and a Baby!



Tara Duddeck and Darren Ascott on the birth of their Daughter Gabriella Catherine on May 20, 2009

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all!

Summer and Fall Adoptions into the Needle-Nose Family

Meet our latest arrivals. My First Mister and Fishoutofwater are siblings who will be two years old on December 8th. These lovely rare blue littermates are going to Ottawa. We are grateful to be able to place these two together as they have a strong connection with one another. Thanks to George and Rosanne Kozoriz for giving these two a loving home. This brings our total placements since last May to 20.

We can never thank our Foster Families enough for what they do. Without you folks many greyhounds would have to wait to get to their forever families. So Roos to Tara Ascott/Duddeck; Brenda, Geoff and Tim Aston; Patricia and Michael Kereliuk/Fairman; Wendy, Serge, Emily and Julia Lauzon; Leanne and Dave McGarr; Bernadette and Ken Reid/Sutton; Cara Lea, Earl, Suttie/Harroun and Suzanne Mead; and last but not least Cheri and Ryan Worth. If anyone is interesting in fostering please contact. Patricia Kereliuk at cowboyndallas@cogeco.ca.

Noel a la Mode in Paris?

Mais Oui! Come out and celebrate "Christmas in Grey Paree", at the Galloping Greyhounds Christmas Lunch and Fashion Show on Sunday, December 13, 11-3 p.m.

No dog can wear clothes like the beautiful and chic Greyhound, n'est pas? And this event will feature the fashion creations of nine designers of canine clothing 'n collars, oodles of incredible raffle prizes and a scrumptious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Admission for adults is \$10 (what a steal!); children 12 and under - \$6.

The event will take place at 90 Waller Street, Whitby.

How do they say that in French? Vite, vite! RSVP Vite!

Email renee_cotton@rogers.com for directions, more info and to RSVP.

Ring in 2010 with a Needle-Nose Calendar!!!

Christmas is just around the corner, and a Needle-Nose calendar is the perfect special gift for family and friends.

Just \$15 each. To order your calendars, let us know how many you would like, and whether you will be picking them up or wish them to be mailed to you. Send a cheque made out to "Needle-Nose Greyhound Adoption" to:

Needle-Nose Greyhound Adoption, c/o G. Aston, 484 Mountsberg Rd RR2, Campbellville ON L0P 1B0

OR we now have a PayPal account! Send money directly to Needle-Nose at adopt@needlenose.ca (please also send an email so we can expedite the mailing of your calendars). Make sure the funds are in Canadian dollars. If you do not already have a PayPal account, you will need to set one up using either a credit card or bank account.



Fishoutofwater and My First Mister



In Memoriam

Boo (Jolly Olly Man)

August 18, 2000 - August 7, 2009



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Boo (Jolly Olly Man), beloved companion of Brett and Natasha Aston.

Cowboy (Fuzz Face Friend)

April 10, 2000 – October 28, 2009



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Cowboy (Fuzz Face Friend), beloved companion of Patricia Kereliuk and Michael Fairman.

Where Greys Will Play When the Snow Flies...

Holy cow! Where have all the flowers gone?

Seems like just yesterday that we were lovingly planting our impatiens and pansies, looking forward to a summer of barbecues and outdoor romps at the leash-free facilities.

But enough lamenting. The good news is that despite the upcoming cold and snowy weather, our hounds won't have to wait another 6 months to stretch their long legs.

Again this winter, there are two Greyhound play groups offering indoor play time facilities on Sundays, at two different hours, to accommodate as many Greyhounds as possible.

Greyhounds Havin' Fun (GHF) meets in a horse arena north of Ajax, just northeast of Highway 7 and Westney Road, Sundays from 11-noon. If there is enough interest, we may move the timeslot to 10:30 to noon. For more information about Greyhounds Havin' Fun, e-mail Lesley Cadham at timotheelea@rogers.com.

Galloping Greyhounds Play Group (GGPG), which operated out of Dreamcrest last Winter, has moved its venue to Bidwell Acres, a horse farm located north of Burketon, which is northeast of Oshawa. GGPG meets on Sundays



from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. For more information and detailed directions, email Renee Cotton at renee_cotton@rogers.com.

Both arenas offer fine sand surfaces, excellent for ex-racers to safely stretch their legs and socialize with friends.

Each participant is required to sign a "hold harmless" form, and must adhere to rules designed to ensure the hounds' safety. Every dog must be muzzled at all times, with no exceptions.

Editor's Note: For west-enders, there is a greyhound only hour every Sunday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Prospect Park in Acton. For more information, see our website at www.needlenose.ca

Ensuring your Hound has a Safe and Happy Holiday!

As we're gearing up for that festive time of year - wrapping gifts, hanging the mistletoe, planning parties and packing up for car trips - we greyhound owners should also put some effort into thoughts about keeping our hounds safe and healthy over the holidays. We hope the following tips will help you, your family and your hound get through the upcoming holiday season!

The Holly and the Ivy

During the holidays, we tend to bring home items that are not part of our household the other 11 months of the year. Most greyhounds aren't mischievous and don't tend to be chewers (unless they are puppies), but many are curious which can lead to trouble. This is especially true for the greyhound that is new to your home this year.

The following is a list of holiday toxins; if you have these in your home, remember to use caution and keep them up and out of your greyhound's reach.

Poisonous plants include:

- ✗ Pointsettias
- ✗ Holly
- ✗ Mistletoe
- ✗ Lillies

Other toxins include:

- ✗ Snow globes (most of them contain antifreeze which is poisonous)
- ✗ Water for the Christmas tree (if it has fertilizer or an aspirin in it - can be deadly to a dog)¹

Other dangerous items:

- ✗ Lit candles (keep them up high - out of reach of those needle noses!)
- ✗ Ornaments, ribbon, decorations, packaging (although most greys won't chew on these, some might - especially a curious newcomer)
- ✗ Wrapped gifts (some dogs find these irresistible and will chew them open)

The Hustle and Bustle

The holidays often mean a change in routine for us humans. But while we're entertaining guests and making merry, our hounds may find it particularly stressful. Stress can lead to intestinal upset and other illnesses in a dog, particularly for newcomers to our homes, but is easy to avoid if we're prepared.² With this in mind, make an effort to keep your hound's routine as stable as possible, even if yours is not.

If you are having guests over, it is a good idea to keep your hound crated until all your guests have arrived and have had some time to get settled. With your guests' permission, you can then bring your greyhound out of the crate on a leash. During the gathering, make sure your dog has a safe place to retreat (his crate is best) and make sure he is wearing his collar and ID tags at all times, just in case he escapes.

If you are planning an elaborate party where there will be many people coming and going over a period of several hours, you may even want to consider allowing your Grey to spend some time with a pet sitter, thereby avoiding the stress all together. Needle-Nose keeps a list of fellow members who would love to share a quiet evening with your hound.

The Great Escape: One of the most difficult things to manage when guests come over is the front door. With people coming and going, the chances for The Great Escape increase exponentially. If your hound does manage to slip out the door, past an arriving guest, the chances of you getting him back unscathed are less than good. Greyhounds are not "street-smart" and will run with wild abandon. Most will not come when called, even if they typically do when in an enclosed area. The lure of the great undiscovered and sweet freedom may be much stronger than the sound of your frantic voice calling him back. Your hound really can reach speeds of 60 km/hour and many greyhounds have been known to literally bolt when the opportunity arises. Keep your hound away from the door, crated

if need be.

Get Me Outta Here!

What are the holidays without a road trip? If you are planning one with your hound, be aware that one of the most opportune times for escape is during road side "pit stops".³ Again, this is especially important if your greyhound is newly adopted. Greys are very sensitive and are prone to run when presented with a situation that stresses them, such as common but loud highway noises.

Maintaining control of your dog at all times is paramount; the key is to make sure that your hound is wearing a properly adjusted Martingale collar (the style of collar that was provided when you adopted your hound), fitted out with his ID tags, including your cell phone number. You should only be able to fit 2-3 fingers between the collar and your hound's neck. If you want to take extra precautions, you can double leash your dog and have someone inside the vehicle hold one leash as you get out of the vehicle. Once outside, you can grasp the first leash, and the person inside the vehicle can release the second.

While walking around with your dog, keep your hand through the loop, gripping the leash tightly, and grasp the leash with your other hand as well. Keep your hound on a short leash - literally - keep him fairly close to your body rather than letting him out to the extent of the leash.

Hopefully these tips will help you and your hound have a safe and happy holiday season. Season's Greetings from all of us at Needle-News!

Footnotes:

- 1, 2 Partnership for Animal Welfare Site, 9 November 2009, available from http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip_HolidaySafety.php; Internet accessed 9 November 2009.
- 3 Partnership for Animal Welfare Site, 9 November 2009, available from: http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip_HowtoPreventEscapes.php; Internet accessed 9 November 2009.

Corns Can Jeopardize Your Hound's Quality of Life

Did you know that greyhounds can actually have corns on the pads of their feet? A corn on a Greyhound is similar to a plantar wart on a human. Corns can severely affect the quality of your hound's life; with each step, your hound may feel that a needle is being inserted into his paw, causing him to limp. The symptoms caused by corns are often mistaken for those caused by other ailments, such as sprained ankles or spinal injury, as corns are difficult to see, usually being an almost invisible circle of a slightly lighter colour than the rest of your hound's pad. Corns can literally look like a scuff mark. The center of the corn is sometimes raised, but can also be level with the rest of the pad.

A sure cure is yet unknown, but there are some things that can be used to make your hound's life easier. A Thera-Paw boot can help your hobbling hound walk in comfort. Dermal Care Spray, carried by some pet food stores - we've found it at certain Global stores - can help to soften the pad and has actually been known to remove the need for the boot altogether. If you suspect your hound has a corn, seek treatment and don't get discouraged by the slow healing process.

According to Dr. Stephen Ball of Brookville Veterinary Clinic in Campbellville, corns are fairly common in greyhounds. Needle-News asked him to provide our readers with further insight on the condition with some suggestions as to treatment. Dr. Ball's input follows.

Dr. Stephen Ball on Corns

Corns (digital keratomas) are a fairly common foot condition of the greyhound. Most owners relate this condition to plantar warts. Occasionally the papilloma virus has been found in greyhounds.

When a greyhound is presented with a corn we can normally treat this in a routine examination using minimal restraint with no sedation or pain medication being required. We routinely shell out the corn using a flat tipped dental elevator that acts as a spatula. We use the root elevator to separate the hard center core from the softer surrounding pad. The root elevator is slowly worked around the perimeter of the core. With a careful rocking movement we follow the shape of the core. Once the sides are free we angle the root elevator to separate the base of the core. The last small area still attached may need to be snipped with scissors. A series of illustra-



tions of the procedure may be found at www.grassmere-animal-hospital.com.

About 50 percent of corns will recur. Applying Abreva ointment to the excavation and then wrapping it with vet wrap does seem to decrease this rate. Applying Paw Guard or Burt's Bees moisture cream to the pad may also help. I do not recommend full thickness surgical excision.

There are reports of home remedies treating with human salicylic acid preps and or duct tape, but I cannot relate any experience that would support how well these treatments work.



From Left: Corn being excised; excision site ready for topical ointment; THERA-PAW boot (www.therapaw.com)