



WELCOME TO NEEDLE-NOSE

Welcome to this summer edition of NeedleNews. Whether you're hitting the road with your hound or just spending the summer at home, we hope you and your family have a safe and happy season. (If you manage to get a few pictures of your hound enjoying the summer, we'd love to consider them for our next calendar!)

This edition of NeedleNews has something for everyone; tips for tackling indoor elimination, a

chance to meet Roger - a recent addition to the NeedleNose family - and a glimpse at a "greyt" place to groom your hound in Waterdown. Add to that some NeedleNews current events, pointers on travelling with your hound (or not), a clever doggie word search and a few other bits and pieces and you've got yourself a newsletter. Enjoy!

Elizabeth Hunt, Editor, Needle-News

Was our Greyhound Worth the Wait? *Roger That!*

by Lynda Jessop-Lew

I grew up having dogs. I grew up with a black Cocker Spaniel named Twinkle-Toes. When she died, my parents consented to another dog as long as it wasn't taller than the coffee table. Along came Ivy, a Bassett Hound, given away by first time parents. And no wonder - she was stubborn, assertive, and strong.

Fast forward 20 years, university, marriage and three children later. The yearning for a dog in the family gets stronger and stronger. Then some friends decided to take sabbatical in Australia but couldn't bring their family dog. We agreed to care for the 14 year old Bichon Frise for the nine months they were gone. Despite her advanced age, Shadow had lots of energy and many habits we didn't agree with. We would find her on the couches and even on the dining room table. She barked a lot and got hysterical if we tried to crate or confine her. On the positive side, she was a good introduction to family life with a dog. Until then, we had only shared life with a turtle and a cockatiel. When Shadow returned to her other family, my husband Wayne remarked that the house seemed a little emptier without her. And so the seed was planted.

For the next year we researched different breeds to see if they met our criteria for a family pet. Our



Reward Penske, AKA Roger, at his forever home

dream dog would be great with small children, quiet, intelligent and easy to train, a low shedder and OK for people with allergies, have low grooming requirements, require only moderate exercise, and be manly enough for my husband to enjoy walking. Do you notice what was not on our list? Size! We assumed we would

(cont'd on next page)

Serendipity: Discovering Greyhounds and Bringing Roger Home

(cont'd from previous page)

adopt a small-medium size dog such as a miniature schnauzer. We regularly checked shelter websites and spoke with rescue groups. More and more we would hear a repeat of



Roger celebrating his 3rd birthday in April

our neighbour's advice "the smaller the dog, the sharper the bite!" In August 2009, after almost a year of looking, we headed up to Hugs for Hounds. Our reason for going was to speak with the Westie rescue group. Alas –they had left early! On the verge of leaving, we spoke with one more rescue group outside the building. After discussing our "wish list", the lady was amused and incredulous, and asked if we had not even looked at all the greyhounds around us. We went back in with fresh eyes. Almost two hours later, after talking extensively with the Needle-Nose representatives and other greyhound owners in the building, we headed home, excited that we had discovered the right dog for our family.



Roger ready for Winter weather

Over the next several weeks, we dreamed of greyhounds. We drew up a list of possible names. I remember waking up one morning with 'Roger' on my mind. The kids liked the name and it was added to our list. We celebrated when Brenda Aston, from Needle-Nose let us know we were approved and we would soon be matched. After a family vote, the name of "Roger" was chosen for our new pet. A few weeks later, we learned our greyhound's track name was "Reward Penske". I decided to do a little more research into his name and discovered that the head of the Penske Trucking company was one Roger Penske. What are the odds! Let it be known that we did not name our dog after a former race car driver!

Preparations began in earnest for Roger's arrival. We set up the enormous wire crate in our living room a month before his arrival. That was, in part, so that we could get used to the size of it, but also to allow the kids to play in it as much as they wanted until Roger came. Then it would be "off limits". Did you know you can fit six children in a greyhound crate!?

On October 18th, Roger arrived in Canada! Brenda called to tell us he was sweet and funny! His foster family, Leanne and Dave McGarr, e-mailed us our first pictures of him and within a few days, the kids and I were able to meet him at the McGarr's. It was love at first sight. We learned then of something else that made him the right dog for us. Leanne had discovered he got sick when he ate treats with peanuts in them. Most of our family are also allergic to peanuts so he was really coming to the right place!

"...he had some difficulty accepting that our 4-year-old son was more important than him."

At home, Roger settled in very smoothly. In his initial struggle to figure out his place in the pack, he had some difficulty accepting that our 4 year old son was more important than him. If there was a pile of mittens or sweaters lying around, Roger would fish out only Evan's things to chew! He would take Evan's hat off the hat rack or chew a toy that Evan had last handled.

Some things about welcoming home a new greyhound we had read about and were prepared for such as teaching him to do stairs hand over paw. A weekend visit by a shih tzu who was fed in the basement quickly made Roger into an expert on stairs! Something we hadn't been prepared for was the pudding poop. While not a problem as much anymore, we never leave home without a pocketful of paper towels. We have become experts at whipping out "the better picker upper", slipping it in place and catching whatever form things take. People laugh at first, then they nod in respect realizing nothing is left behind.

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Serendipity: Discovering Greyhounds and Bringing Roger Home

(cont'd from previous page)

Roger has had his share of cuts, scrapes, and torn nails from his crazy running in the backyard, leaping onto the deck at full speed and sliding across the wood. We keep a basket of washcloths and a tube of Polysporin in the bathroom. He seems to need it more often than the kids!

"...the door slammed shut on his tail, basically severing it. When we arrived at the clinic, Roger, being the friendly dog that he is, stood up, wagged his tail once and sent the dressing flying into the back of the van!"

In February, Roger needed more than a wash and cream. Our screen door was broken and one night I was leading him through, when the door slammed shut on his tail, basically severing it. There was so much blood! We wrapped it the best we could and headed slowly through the blizzard, from Guelph to our vet in Brookville. When we arrived at the clinic, Roger, being the friendly dog that he is, stood up, wagged his tail once and sent the dressing flying into the back of the van! He walked in leaving a trail of dripping blood. The vet said they had to amputate and took almost 4 inches off. Roger was nick-named "the short-tailed dog" by my husband, until recently when we met a very large greyhound from Niagara Falls with a tail of only about four inches in length!

All our children take turns feeding Roger, making him "wait!" in the kitchen while they set up his meal in the hallway. If he moves too soon before being given the release (OK!), they take the dish away and start all over. The kids also take turns taking Roger out and cleaning up after him. Picture



Roger visiting "mom's" family in Brockville

a 7-year old following a big dog, holding a kid-sized snow shovel under him to catch the treasure so the grass stays clean for when friends come to play!

Our 10 year old daughter had written a long essay on greyhounds for school. Word got around and many teachers came out to meet him! She has also taken him to Guides for her Pet care badge. He performed a routine of tricks including shake, bow, jumping up to catch a toy, lie down, and going through a hula hoop. We are now working on getting him over his fear of balls, and learning to fetch.

We are thrilled at having Roger in our family. He was truly worth the wait!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! WHO'S GOING TO BE A PIN-UP GIRL (OR BOY) THIS YEAR?

Calling all hounds! We need all those candid, goofy, sweet and aaawww-inducing photos of your tender-hearted Greyhounds doing the things they love best. Yep, the 2011 Needle-Nose calendar is going into production any day now so that the first copies can be hot off the press in time for the Needle-Nose Picnic in September.

Try to keep the photos at a reasonable resolution so that they appear clear in the calendar - over 300 kb. If you have any questions or want to send photos, email aston@hwcn.org.



In Memoriam

Evan

May 26th 2002 to May 3rd 2010



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Evan, beloved companion of Geoff and Brenda Aston and Emma, Miami, Lacey and Ozzie.

The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge.

There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together.

There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone

very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author unknown

HOW WILL YOUR GREYHOUND ENJOY THE SUMMER?



Clockwise from top left: Indie and Jada like to cool it by the pool with a good pal; Ozzie likes to chase the heat by roachin' and nappin' on Summer afternoons; Becky likes to keep an eye on neighbourhood kids; Frankie loves to chill with a tasty ice cream treat; Welly doesn't cool his jets on hot days; and some hounds are busy practising for the Olympics.



Needle-News Nips

The Needle-Nose Family Celebrates...

A new Baby...



Cheri and Ryan Worth welcomed son **William Daniel Worth**, better known as Liam, into the world on February 26.



and some well-deserved recognition!



Joanne Sanford (who has adopted 4 greys from Needle-Nose) has won the Grace Evelyn Simpson Reeves Award for Excellence in Nursing from Sick Kids in Toronto.



Congratulations and Best Wishes to all!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Cockroaching? That term refers to a Greyhound's position, when he is on his back with the front paws extended (sometimes one is bent) and back legs sprawled wide. The head is usually tilted to one side, likely to help the hound stay balanced. If your hound does this, he is relaxed and very content. (see photo previous page)

*Circle these **REDHOT** Dates!!!*

Annual Needle-Nose BBQ

Pack up the hounds (and the kids) in the car and come on out to Campbellville where the food will be plenty, the laughs will be frequent, shopping will be plentiful and Greyhounds will be, well, *EVERYWHERE*. The fun begins Sunday, September 12 at noon, at the home of the Astons in Campbellville. Details to follow.



A game of musical mats had all hounds scrambling last summer; and afterward, there was lots of rest and relaxation for hounds who participated.



Greyhound Family BBQ and Fundraiser

Needle-Nose will have a table at the Family Barbeque and Fundraiser for Greyhound Adoption Group on July 18.

The event will be held from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at The Dogwood Centre, 4424 Victoria Road South, Puslinch, Ontario.

Hound lovers can expect raffles, all kinds of vendors, facility tours, canine chiropractic assessment/adjustments, and more - come and see for yourself!

Big Daddy Festival

The Big Daddy Festival was held on Father's Day weekend and Needle-Nose was there! Thanks to all who attended, and to our volunteers, Mary Ann and Pat Mannell with Taylor and Bailey, Linda Marshall-Taylor, Sandra Hall, Elizabeth Hunt and Geoff Aston.

How much do I love thee?

Let me count the wags!



Word Search

by Carol Roberts

And they called it
Puppy Love...

B A R K S U O R O V I N R A C
D F R I E N D S E I X S U H D
D E L D O O P D E L D D U P T
E T E R R I E R S G U P P U R
T C P L A Y N U F B K R A P A
A H O U N D O G O O A O L P I
C E O B E Y O T O N E T A Y N
I W C O L L A R D E P E M P E
T S H D E S A H C S S C I P D
S D D G U A R D S G A T N A L
E E C A L L H C A E T D A H A
M E N A I R A N I R E T E V M
O R E T R I E V E R T A O C M
D B V A R I E T I E S F U R A
D C A N I N E D L E R G N O M
P R O T E C T P U G P L A Y
T R A I N E D T E R R I E R S T E A C H
V A R I E T I E S V E T E R I N A R I A N

ANIMAL
BONES
CHEWS
COAT
CALL
COLLAR
DOG
FUR
FOOD
GUARD
HAPPY
LAP
MONGREL
PUPPY
POODLE
RETRIEVER

BARK
BREED
CARNIVOROUS
CANINE
CHASE
DOMESTICATED
FETCH
FUN
FRIEND
HOUND
HUSKIES
MAMMAL
OBEY
PUDDLE
POOCH
SPEAK
TOY

WHEN YOU'RE DONE, YOU'LL HAVE ONLY 'D'S LEFT.

Greyhound Quick Facts

Country of Origin: Egypt, Great Britain

Origin Date: Antiquity

First Use: Large Game Coursing

Use Today: Coursing, racing, companion

Weight Range: 50-80 lbs.

Height Range: 27-30 inches

Life Expectancy: 10-14 yrs.

And one more fact...

Greyhounds are Bred to Run. But Born to Love. And how they love to love, and be loved! Next to sharing love, playing - alone or with their Greyhound pals - is their favourite pastime! Despite the fact that the majority of Greyhounds

have gone to racing school and then taken on a real job in the real world (earning real dollars), most Greyhounds seem to remain puppies forever. Snoozin' is next on their list of fav activities, followed closely by leaning....

WordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearchWordSearch
 Carol Roberts began creating Word Searches for family and friends some 10 years ago, and today her entertaining puzzles are carried by a number of Manitoba newspapers and relied upon by residents and patients at nursing homes and hospitals. When we asked, Carol was only too happy to create a Word Search with a Greyhound theme for our newsletter. Carol lives on a farm near Brandon, Manitoba.

5 Star Dog Grooming gets, well, 5 Stars from Needle-Nose



When Needle-Nose welcomes new hounds from the track for adoption, the first thing we like to do is give those sweet doggies a nice bath.

We are delighted to report that for the last three runs of dogs, Needle-Nose has used a fabulous little dog grooming spot called 5 Star Dog Grooming. It has been a wonderful experience as it has alleviated the difficulty of bathing several new dogs one by one in a standard bathtub. Needle-Nose rents the grooming facility and voila, thanks to the use of two raised tubs designed specially for the purpose of dog grooming, the job is done in a fraction of the time.



Leanne Newton, Owner



Leanne Newton and her hospitable staff await your visit at Five Star Grooming (17 Main Street South, Waterdown, Ontario). Leanne, at Five Star Grooming since its inception, recently took over ownership from Dennis Beard and is now at the helm. Five Star Grooming is open from Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm, and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Walk-ins are welcome, depending on the appointment schedule. The number to call is 905-690-WOOF (9663) and they can be found on the web at www.fivestargrooming.ca.

Wow!

Happy Hounds Abound!

Needle-Nose has brought 13 hounds to forever homes this year, including Layla (in tub, above) and Eddie, right. Who feels like roo-ing?



Zing...there goes my springing heart (dog)

My Greyhounds love the Spring. No more waiting impatiently at the door while mom layers on the coats and snoods. No more ice between the toes after long walks in the snow. Just lots of green grass to roll around in, and butterflies to pursue.

This season, Greyhounds Havin' Fun (GHF) will continue to meet at a horse farm north of Ajax, just northwest of Highway 7 and Westney Road, Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30. By request only, we will occasionally meet on Saturdays or Sundays. For more information about Greyhounds Havin' Fun, e-mail Lesley Cadham at timotheelea@rogers.com.

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.

In addition, there is an informal Greyhound Hour each Sunday at noon, at Norwood Park, just southwest of Gerrard Street/Main Street near the Beaches in Toronto.



I say informal, as the time slot has never been designated specifically for Greyhounds, but the majority of the dogs there at that time are Greys. Other breeds sometimes join the mix, and the situations are judged on a case-by-case basis. Lately, the Greyhounds have been increasingly accepting of the non-Greyhound playmates.

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.

10 Commandments of Pet Ownership

(1) My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you will be painful for me. Remember that before you buy me.

(2) Give me time to understand what you want from me don't be impatient, short-tempered or irritable.

(3) Place your trust in me and I will always trust you back, respect is earned not given as an inalienable right.

(4) Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment, I am not capable of understanding why? I only know I have been rejected. You have your work, entertainment and friends. I only have you.

(5) Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice and your tone. Just look at my tail.

(6) Be aware that however you treat me, I'll never forget it and if it's cruel it may

affect me forever.

(7) Please don't hit me. I can't hit back, but I can bite and scratch and I really don't ever want to do that.

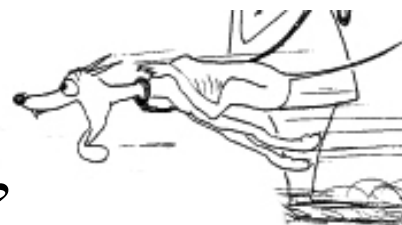
(8) Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right foods or I've been out in the sun too long or my heart is getting old and weak, or I may just be dog tired.

(9) Take care of me when I get old. You too will grow old and may also need love, care, and attention.

(10) Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch" or "Let it happen in my absence". Everything is easier for me if you are there. Remember, irrespective of what you do I will always love you.



Don't Leave Home Without It? But What About Your Hound?



Did someone say "Beach"?

Summer's nearly here which means many hearts will turn lightly to thoughts of vacation. Question: Do you take your greyhound with you or do you leave him behind? Well, it's truly a matter of where you are going and whether it truly makes sense to include your dog. Even if you are going camping, if your dog will have to spend many hours out in the elements, you are probably best off leaving him at home. Greyhounds are sensitive to temperature extremes due to their small percentage of body fat. Beyond all consideration for his well-being on the trip and your enjoyment, you must use your own good judgment, considering also your dog's individual personality and whether he would really enjoy being with you or would he simply be stressed and confused by it all and prefer to stay in the comforts of a home setting while you are away. If you do decide to leave him behind but have no one to take him in, contact Needle-Nose and we will do our best to find him a home away from home where he will be well-cared for while you are away. We have members and friends who enjoy pet-sitting in their homes, and this is the ideal choice for an ex-racer. PLEASE DO NOT BOARD YOUR DOG IN A KENNEL! Boarding kennels are high-stress environments and your sensitive greyhound would not do well there at all.

If however your vacation is one that is low-key and slower paced, then your dog would likely enjoy coming along with you. Here are some points to keep in mind to help you plan a safe and stress-free trip.

Plan ahead. There are many resorts and hotels that are pet friendly these days, but you have to call ahead. Be sure to ask if there are any special stipulations or hidden fees for a canine companion.

For car travel, there are several things to keep in mind to keep your hound safe and comfy. His martingale collar should be fitted properly to his neck (two fingers only gap) and should be equipped with his current tags and identification including a mobile number that you will have with you on the trip. Standard collars should never be used on greyhounds as their heads are quite literally smaller than their necks, and they can back out of an ordinary collar in one swift movement. For roadside stops along the way,

always make certain that prior to exiting your vehicle you connect his leash to his collar and secure his leash by having another person in the car hold the leash until you are able to exit and move to the door where you will allow your dog to exit. This will prevent any overly eager dog from



leaping out of the car before you are in good control of him. Keep in mind, new greyhounds are especially sensitive to loud noises of the road, such as traffic, tractor trailer engines, etc. and will try very hard to run if frightened.

Bring lots of bags (always stoop and scoop!), a roll of paper toweling and some enzymatic cleaner for accidents. Be sure to offer your pet fresh water at every stop of your trip and bring along a smaller portion of his food for the car along with some crunchy dog biscuits he likes for snacking. As it is for humans, lighter fare while travelling is best to avoid upset tummies. Make sure your pet has ample space to lie down in the car and a soft bed or blanket to lie on.

For your final destination, you will want to be sure you bring any added accommodations to keep your hound comfortable, such as toys, treats, bed, collapsible crate – they sell nylon crates that assemble much like a tent which are a great, light weight option for the road. Of course, don't forget to bring a bit more of what you anticipate using in his food and any medications he takes regularly. Have fun with your dog and have a great summer!



Eliminating Indoor Elimination is NOT a Lost Cause

If your greyhound is taking care of business indoors, the first thing you'll want to know is how to properly clean up after him in a way that will help discourage him from doing so again. After an accident, soak up as much of the urine as possible in paper towels, rags, newspaper, then rinse the area with cool water and use an extracting carpet cleaner or wet vac to extract as much of that water as possible. Do not use heat or chemicals as this will only help to set in the odour. You must then treat the area with a good enzymatic cleaner such as PetZyme. Use according to package directions. We all know a dog's sense of smell is quite keen and a dog is more likely to repeat offend in an area where he has already been. The enzymes in these special cleaners are intended to "consume" the remaining odour.

If your greyhound is having accidents indoors, it could be an illness, diet or separation anxiety or a combination of these that is causing the problem. If you can excuse the pun, using the process of elimination to figure out what is not causing the problem, is the best way to go about getting to solution. Start with the causes that are the easiest to remedy, such as illness and diet. If you find that resolving these issues still does not alleviate the problem, you will then know that his problem is purely behavioural. You can then begin to work with your hound to de-emphasize his problem with separation anxiety.

Make an appointment with your vet as soon as possible to rule out illness as the cause. Quite often it is a sick hound that finds it difficult to hold it for extended periods whether the cause is the illness itself or just the added stress of being sick and out of sorts. While you are at the vet's office, discuss your hound's diet and eating habits. Talk to them about the possibility of a food change. Mention any abnormalities such as persistently soft stool, especially smelly stool, gas or a greyhound whose tummy makes frequent grumbling noises. All of these can indicate that the food you are feeding isn't agreeing with your greyhound. Soft or smelly stool may only require a change in brand of food whereas gas or grumbling tummy would indicate change in type of food, for example changing from a chicken-based to a lamb-based kibble. If you do decide to change his food, do so gradually by mixing the more old food with the new food at first and over time, gradually giving him more new than old in the mixture until you can transition to giving him the new food alone.

If you've ruled out illness and brand and type of food, the indoor elimination is likely due to separation anxiety. Not only is the crate an extremely valuable transition tool that helps you to get your hound used to the routine of his new environment, but it also helps you control his behaviour when you can't be there. If you can't crate your hound, you might want to hire a friend or dog walker to come in and spend 45 minutes to an hour with your hound during periods when you are away. This will give you another way of helping him transition, reinforcing that someone always returns to take care of him. Logistically, it also gives him another opportunity to relieve himself outdoors at a much closer time interval. [This suggestion would even apply if his problem turns out to be purely illness/diet related, because you want to give him as many opportunities for success (i.e. eliminating in the proper place) as possible, as soon as possible, so you can reinforce the desired behaviour.] Over time, you could ask the dog walker to come gradually later and later in the day, and get your hound used to longer periods of time on his own. Dog walkers are a fairly inexpensive choice ranging from \$10 to \$15 per visit. You could even hire a trusted pre-teen or teen in your neighbourhood to do the same job for even less.

Regardless what solution works for you, the sooner you work toward changing the habit of eliminating indoors, the less likely the behaviour will become an engrained habit, which can be even harder to break in the long run. Rest assured, Needle-Nose representatives are always here to help, and the earlier you alert us to a problem, the more likely we will be able to help you.

