

# THE NORTHERN BARK

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion" -- Unknown

The newsletter of **Northern Greyhound Adoptions!**  
As a non-profit organization, NGA's aim is to integrate ex-racers into the surrounding communities. Each year, we strive to place 60 dogs. Dogs are welcomed into our kennel, and socialized with our volunteers and other greyhounds as they relax and adjust into their retirement years. Pursuing our mission, we work to educate the public and increase awareness of the greyhound.



Got your Holiday Apparel?



2010

## Keep Your Pets Safe Over The Holidays

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**While the holidays can definitely be stressful for the humans, it can be worse for your pets. Please keep them safe and healthy during this busy time of year.**

Don't overdo it on the treats, especially chocolate, which can make your animals very sick. Keep those sweet treats up and out of their reach!

Be careful of sharp or breakable ornaments and decorations. These are almost too much for a curious greyhound to resist, and can be dangerous if ingested or broken and stepped on.

My greyhounds have been known to unwrap the gifts under the tree if left unsupervised too long, so take extra precautions to keep them out of reach.

At Christmas sometime it cools down fast, and your greyhounds will get cold very quickly if left outside too long. If you will be spending time outside consider a coat for your greyhound to keep him or her warm, and never leave them out for long unsupervised.

Take extra precautions to keep your greyhounds safe at home during parties or when guests visit. Many greyhounds get out this time of year during the excitement of the season. Doors and gates are more likely to be left open, so be careful not to lose your pet. There is nothing worse than missing your beloved greyhound during the holidays.

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## SLEEPING ACCOMODATIONS

**Because of the way Greyhounds are built they need a soft place to sleep and nap.**

Hard floors, or even carpeted floors without good cushioning, can cause pressure sores. Of course your couch and your bed will usually be your hound's napping spot of choice, but even if you allow this (and most of us do, I'm afraid), he should still have a space/bed that he can call his own. You can spend anywhere from \$15.00 to upwards of \$100.00 on a dog bed. Or you can make your own.

Buy two king size pillows (or use old ones if you already have them). Then make a pair of heavy weight (you can use heavy denim) pillow cases to fit them. Stitch the two pillow cases together down the long sides and then insert the pillows. If you did this right, the two pillows will lie flat, side by side. You might want to stitch in some snaps or velcro to keep the pillows from sliding out of the covers.

Buy an "egg crate" foam mattress pad, king or queen size (or again, use an old one if you have one on hand). Cut it in equal fourths and stack the four pieces. Then make a cover to slide them into. For the cover you can use an old quilt or whatever you have lying around, or you can buy the fabric. I highly recommend denim because it's so sturdy. Be sure to put some kind of closure on the open end because foam is irresistible to Greyhounds and if they can get at it they'll shred it.

Walmart (no affiliation, just a VERY regular customer) has good, sturdy, thick dog beds for about \$20.00 to \$25.00. Be sure to buy the largest size. If your budget will allow, though, I highly recommend Snuggums beds from The Greyhounder. They're higher than Walmart's beds, but for the quality (they hold up VERY well!) they're still a very good buy and your Greyhound will feel like the royalty he is.

### HEAT and COLD - Again with the body fat (or lack thereof).

Greyhounds carry very little "insulation". Therefore, they are more sensitive to extremes in both heat and cold than other dogs. This is not to imply that they can't live happily in a variety of climates. Thousands of Greyhounds are flourishing in homes from Canada to Florida. But you do need to be aware of their needs regarding the weather.

In the first place, Greyhounds are inside dogs. They should never be kept outdoors without shelter for extended periods of time. Racing kennels are usually carefully climate controlled, as should your Greyhound's environment be. In summer care must be taken not to let your hound overheat. Sometimes this might mean restricting his exercise on very hot days. Even though they may feel uncomfortable from the heat, they will still often want to run, not knowing it can hurt them. If you walk your dog, you should do it during the coolest parts of the day in summer. Basically, if it's uncomfortable for you, it will be even more uncomfortable and possibly dangerous for him. You should familiarize yourself with the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and be prepared to deal with it fast if you should see those signs in your dog. Even at rest a Greyhound can become dangerously overheated during extended periods of exposure to high temperatures. In hot weather your dog should always have access to a comfortable resting place in the shade. Air conditioning is nice, but a fan should be sufficient in all but the hottest weather. Cool coats can be very helpful. These are usually simple terry cloth coats that are wet in cool (not ice cold!) water before being put on the dog. A spray bottle of cool water to be sprayed directly on the dog is also handy, especially on walks.

In winter many people dress their Greyhounds in special cold weather wardrobes. This can be a lot of fun, at least for the humans, but depending on your situation, may or may not be necessary. If you have a securely fenced yard in which your dog can stretch his legs and take care of business, he probably will not need to get dressed up for a quick trip outdoors. Just don't forget to let him back in quickly! But if you must (or just want to) walk your dog in cold weather, a warm coat becomes more of a necessity than a fashion statement. The rule of thumb is that if you'd be cold without a coat, your dog will be cold, too. Some Greyhounds are, of course, more sensitive to cold than others. Even if you feel comfortable, if your dog is shivering, he's cold. If you walk your dog in places where salt or other chemicals have been used to melt ice, you should invest in (or make) a set of booties for him. It may sound (and look) a bit silly, but those chemicals can burn his feet and also do internal damage if he licks them off. If you run across these chemicals unexpectedly, be sure to wash off your dog's feet in warm water as soon as you get home. In extremely cold weather you should take care that his sensitive ears are warmly covered, too.

A few Greyhounds, usually older ones or very small ones, can be uncomfortably cold even in the house. You don't want to turn up the heat so that it's uncomfortable for you. This is where a sweatshirt can come in handy. A medium or large sweatshirt, will fit most Greyhounds fairly well. You'll need to shorten the sleeves and put a drawstring or elastic in the waist so that it doesn't hang down loose.



# Adoptable of the Month **MILLER**



- Registered Name: [Pals Blocker](#)
- Sex: Male , Color: Black
- RE : 87D LE: 43608
- Birthday: Aug 1st, 2007
- Arrived at NGA: Oct 3rd, 2009

I must admit Miller is very near and dear to my heart as we have just adopted his sister Buffy (Pals Buffie) and our very good friend in New York State had adopted his brother Mac (Pals Big Mack) over the summer.

While Mac is very shy and Buffy somewhat shy, Miller seems to be a super sweet love bug! (He's also a bit of a doofus like our very own Joe ☺ )



Needless to say we'd love to keep in touch with his new family and perhaps arrange for the siblings to get together once in awhile!

## New Couch Potatoes Look who went home since our last issue!

Big Ben (Risban)	Grujot (Bandit)	Fergie
Roan (Chubs)	Roxy (Fiona)	Graham (Marley)
Princess	Annie (LadyAnne)	Melody
Zafter	Malakai (Santana)	Nosey
Ebb	Ace	Phylo
Mocha (Jamocha)	Doug (Josh)	Ronda
Popy	Hope	Dakota (Nasaree)

...continued next page!!

				
Jet (Pauly)	Tuna (Jet)	Astro	Gordy	Oompa
				
Luke	Becca	Davis	Porter	Truman
				
Ginnie	Buffie	Oskar	Fenway	Kaya (Kate)
				
Terry	Jumper	Sofia	Star	Tucker (Thor)
				
Ziggy	John Henry	StellaSiesta (Dream)	Cassie	Bucky

**Congratulations to everyone involved with adoptions - the coordinators, the volunteers and especially our Kennel Manager Dorothy Westover.**



**Dorothy has just informed me that 2009 was the best year ever for adoptions, with 90 dogs going home so far this year.**

## Deer Joe



Deer Joe,

As your new sister's brother who never raced, can you tell me a little bit about your career as a raisin dog? What was it like?

Mac

Deer Mac,

I had a very illustreeous um illastreeus um good career as a raisin dog.

I ran a total of three (count 'em THREE!) races.

I tellya lying there in that box waiting for Swiftee the bunnee to zip by was hard work! When the box opened all the other raisin dogs zipped past me! Butt KNOT me, no siree, no way. I was TOO smaaaaaaaaaaaaht!!

I knew that Swiftee was not about to be cot, so I took my time and sniffed the flowers around the trak and had a whiz here and there "lah deed dah", "lah deed dah" - ahhhhh. I took my time consintraying on the verree importint things gowing on around me.

I yam a verree stoudious guy yoo know - I didn't get to hab a PEE uhm ginormous brayne for nutting! I always pay attention to ebyrthing gowing on arownd mee..... Huh? What? What was I sayin? Time for a nap? OK!

Joe

Pee Ess You can see my fancy raisin hat in the picture above. I'm gonna be wearing it to the NASCAR race this Summir!

Have a question for me - please send it to [newsletter@t-legs.com](mailto:newsletter@t-legs.com) and I will reply to it heer in this column. Pictures are always axepted!

*Joe T. Reporter*

## Kennel Needs

The dogs' needs haven't stopped or slowed down; each dog that comes in must be spayed or neutered, given a full wellness check, and vaccinated fully. There are also needs beyond the basic intake care; often retired racers arrive with health issues like broken legs or pinched nerves, and sometimes need to be treated for dental work above and beyond basic cleaning. And **recently we've had more emergency procedures and other expenses than usual** - even the washing machine (for cleaning the dogs' bedding) died and needed to be replaced ASAP instead of hoping for one to be donated.

**The basic things that could be counted on donation-wise are no longer available ... N.G.A.** used to be able to count on donations of food from local stores, but no longer. Perfectly fine dog food that arrived in ripped bags that used to be donated to the Greyhounds now gets taped up and sold at a discount, and the stores that do still donate do so to more than just N.G.A.

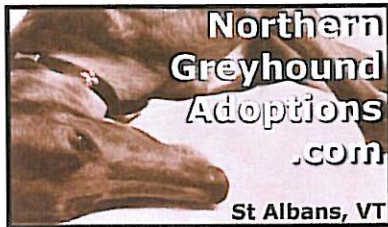
**We need to be able to continue that high level of care and are confident that a good many of NGA's supporters & adopters would be happy to be part of that.**

If you can make a financial gift that would be wonderful! **All donations go directly to helping the Greyhounds** - they need things, but they also need funds for their vet care and overhead costs.

Sometimes our adoptable dogs are with us for years before their forever family finds them ... the donation in the form of the adoption fee only covers a small part of the overall cost of care of a dog at the kennel - **your donations MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!** (please see our donation form on page 8)

In addition we can always use day-to-day items like clothes washing detergent, kennel washing detergent etc. etc. Got stuff you can send along but are not sure it can be used? Call us! (802) 524-6659

# Calendar of Events:



**Deck your Halls with Christmas Wreaths sold by N.G.A. - all proceeds benefit the Greyhounds. Wreaths are on sale at both Pet Food Warehouse locations; Shelburne Rd & Williston Road in South Burlington. Wreaths are decorated and are only \$15 each!**

**During the winter months our Greys are often at Pet Food Warehouse greeting people at the door!**



## The League of Extraordinary Greyhounds

**We're in the process of finding new and exciting venues for 2010 – check this space for details!**



**Dec. 13, 2009**

**Toe Nail Clinic – West**

For dates and times for the clinics, please check the Greyhound Supporters' website: [www.gsncr.ca](http://www.gsncr.ca)

**Dec. 19, 2009**

**Toe Nail Clinic – East**

For dates and times for the clinics, please check the Greyhound Supporters' website: [www.gsncr.ca](http://www.gsncr.ca)

**Jan. 24, 2010**

**Drop-in Social** at WAG, Bank and Sunnyside 10:30 to 12:30

**Please visit the following "Events" pages for more information:**

[www.northerngreyhoundadoptions.com/events.php](http://www.northerngreyhoundadoptions.com/events.php)

[www.t-legs.com/events.html](http://www.t-legs.com/events.html)

[www.greyken.com/whats-new.htm](http://www.greyken.com/whats-new.htm)

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[www.northerngreyhoundadoptions.org](http://www.northerngreyhoundadoptions.org)

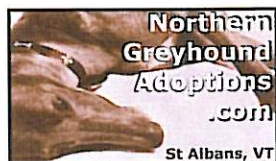
Northern Greyhound Adoptions Newsletter is published 4 times per year.

NGA is operated by volunteers and supported solely by donations. NGA places dogs throughout Vermont, Northern New York, Quebec and Ontario.

#### Board of Directors:

President - Donald Westover  
Vice President - Sue Gerry  
Treasurer - Dorothy Westover  
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Board Member - Lynn Murray  
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Newsletter - Donna Deskin  
Website - Thea & Rene Churchill  
Kennel Manager - Dorothy Westover



**Working closely with the following groups to broaden our horizons!**

#### Montreal, Quebec:



**The League of Extraordinary Greyhounds**

[www.t-legs.com](http://www.t-legs.com)

Contact: [greyhounds@t-legs.com](mailto:greyhounds@t-legs.com)

#### Ottawa, Ontario:



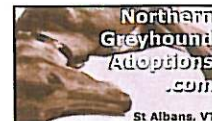
[www.gsncr.ca](http://www.gsncr.ca)

Contact: [info@gsncr.ca](mailto:info@gsncr.ca)

**From all of us to all of you –  
Here's wishing you all the best for  
the Holiday Season and the  
upcoming New Year!**



**Got pictures you'd like to see in The Bark??  
Send them along to [newsletter@t-legs.com](mailto:newsletter@t-legs.com)**



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999 Fairfax Road/Route 104  
St. Albans, VT 05478  
802 524-6659  
[info@NorthernGreyhoundAdoptions.org](mailto:info@NorthernGreyhoundAdoptions.org)

## **Donation Form**

If you would like to mail in a donation, please mail in this form with your donation.

*Yes, I want to help retired racing Greyhounds find loving forever homes!*

*I am sending:*

\_\_\_\$10.00 \_\_\_\$25.00 \_\_\_\$50.00 \_\_\_\$100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations may be made in Memorial, please specify below,

This Gift is in Memory of:

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Please make checks payable to:  
**Northern Greyhound Adoptions**  
and mail to:  
Northern Greyhound Adoptions  
999 Fairfax Road/Route 104  
St. Albans, VT 05478

N.G.A. is a 501(c) non-profit charitable organization and your donation is tax deductible.

- Please check this box if you need a receipt for tax purposes.
- Make a Friend, Save a Life, Adopt a Greyhound!*