



- Summer 2009 -

### Contents:

- Picnic Report-
- Vacation Travel Tips-
- DVD's from Phoenix-
- Dogs Adopted-
- Summer Health-
- Guam Grey-
- Humor-

### GreySave Events:

**Saturday, July 18th: GreySave will be at the Hermon Dog Park** 2-6pm, 5568 Via Marisol, Los Angeles. Pet services and suppliers, demonstrations and activities for everyone. Come see Romy's statue unveiled.

**Saturday, July 25th: Eco-friendly Spa Day, Anaheim and Pasadena.** Join your Greyhound friends at the GreySave Eco-Friendly Spa Day Fundraiser. Go to: [www.greysave.org/spaday.php](http://www.greysave.org/spaday.php)

**Saturday, October 24th: Grey-Save Fall event - Octoberfest!** To be held at Schabarum Regional Park. Times to be announced soon.

We will need volunteers for both events, so if you can help represent GreySave please contact Cathy Kiburtz at 626-354-8476.

**For more details see.....**  
[www.greysave.org](http://www.greysave.org)

The Official GreySave Newsletter

# SCOOP

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

303+ dogs saved

**Greyhound Adoptions**

**(866) Grey-Save**

## Message from the GreySave Board

2009 is fast becoming a record year for GreySave. Adoptions are up 20% from last year. Thanks to your help, we're on track to adopt out over 170 dogs this year. Just as important is the growing number of volunteers and the continuing positive energy and excitement at GreySave events. The numbers of foster homes and placement representatives are on the rise, and we have a record number of Meet & Greets (14) stretching from Westlake Village to Mission Viejo. Our Picnic at the Park in May was our largest event ever with over 300 people and 200 hounds.

We've seen changes this year in the tracks and in the dogs we get. In 2008 almost all of our dogs came from the Caliente track in Tijuana, but because fewer dogs are retiring off that track, we've had to use other sources this year. In 2009 half of our dogs have come from other sources: tracks in Tucson, Phoenix, and Guam, not to mention small numbers of shelter greyhounds and dogs returned by their adopters for various reasons.

Another change is in the dogs' ages. As the table below shows, the average age of the dogs we take in has risen each year. One of the dogs we picked up in July, Monty, is almost 6 years old, and we've taken a number of 5-year-olds.

We are also seeing more injuries. The number of dogs with newly broken legs is rising. In addition, we're seeing a number of toe injuries or leg breaks that have fully or partially healed without surgical repair. Even if they can't benefit from surgery, they often need orthopedic care.

So what does this all mean? Our hounds are a few months older and a larger number need additional medical treatment. The table below also shows that the average amount we spend to place each greyhound has risen to \$770, almost three times our adoption fee. This, combined with our 20% growth, means increased costs for our all-volunteer, non-profit, merry band.

Dogs Placed by GreySave

Year	Number	Age	Average Cost
2007	82	3.2	\$630
2008	137	3.5	\$708
2009	170*	4.0	\$770

\*projected

Under present circumstances we don't believe that we can or should raise the \$275 adoption fee. Instead, we're looking for ways to contain costs that don't impact adoptions. We are going after grant money more aggressively. Rather than cancel the summer Spa Day fundraisers due to the water shortage, we've made them "Eco-Friendly" Spa Days. Ultimately we'll need to rely once again largely on the amazing generosity of our volunteers and benefactors to help cover the average \$495 per dog difference between our expenses and our adoption fee. The 2009-2010 GreySave Benefactor fundraising drive, coming soon, will give you a chance to make a difference in the lives of these wonderful creatures.

## GreySave Picnic a Greyt Success

By Jim Jeffers

Our third annual *Race to the Park!* picnic, on May 9 at Sierra Madre's Veteran's Memorial Park, was a fantastic time. Over 300 people and 200 greyhounds attended, making it our best-attended event to date.

In the midst of a recession, guests were generous in donating to greyhound rescue. Between ticket sales, raffle sales, the silent and live auctions, nail trimming, and merchandise sales by GreySave and outside vendors, we made about \$7,500.



The picnic kicked off with registration. Thanks, Sue Blair, Louise Winders, and others for helping register everyone. Nail trimming (thanks, Dottie and Katy Burkhardt and others) and microchipping (thanks, Judy Calame) also started up early. A highlight of the morning was the GreySave Foster Hound Parade, led by our official mascot, Gracie the GreySave Greyhound (also known as Michaela).

Following on the heels of the parade was Games for Greyhounds, led by Bonnie Jeffers and Lisa Pennock. Games included the favorites "Bobbing for Hot Dogs," "Musical Carpet Squares," and a new game, "Lick the Whipped Cream Off Your Master's Face." The last one was a big hit. We never knew so many greys could lick! Before and after the games, Bonnie Jeffers offered advice to a number of owners with behavioral challenges.

Vendors offered everything from dog care items to clothing for dogs and humans, stepping stones, to jewelry and animal communication. About 20 vendors were present--our largest group yet. Many reported brisk sales. Thanks go to Linda O'Toole for doing a great job of recruiting and working with the vendors.



Then it was time for lunch. This year the menu included lime-cilantro grilled chicken breast, pulled pork, and vegetarian hot sandwiches. We also had the ever-popular array of side dishes, salads, desserts, and a variety of drinks. Many people helped with the lunch, but we'd like to especially thank our chefs, Brian Hightower and his father, and Susan Harper for her fantastic desserts.

Priscilla O'Malley of Liebe Aire Acres once again conducted the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test all day. Passing this test is the first step toward Therapy Dog certification. All five of the greyhounds who took the test passed:

- Rosemary (with Tracy Thomas)
- Maya (with Tam Khuu)
- Roscoe (with Derek Syverud)
- Taz (with Brian Dowd)
- Birch (with Mette Peltz; Mette's Lab, Jake, also passed)



Priscilla donated all of her fees to GreySave. Thanks for your help, Priscilla! For more information on the parts of the test, see the GreySave newsletter article, "My Dog Became a Canine Good Citizen at the Race to the Park! – Yours Can Too!" (<http://www.greysave.org/news607.php#8>).

Auctions and raffles were a big part of the day. A morning raffle featured about two dozen items donated by our vendors.





### *Picnic Story continued:*

We had a large number of items on the silent auction tables this year. After a morning of lively bidding, silent auction winners were announced at 2 pm. The big live auction featured two large, resin greyhound statues. Clyde Hirshfeld was the auctioneer this year. The final raffle drawings saw lots of folks go home with beautiful baskets of goodies donated to our group and prepared by Sandy Hightower, Marcie Jones, and others.

As you can see, the day was packed with events. But probably most folks (and greyhounds) there would say that the best part was getting out in the fresh air and visiting with human and hound friends old and new. So many people helped that we can't name them all. Thanks to Rory Goreé for once again bringing his sound system. Thanks to Jim Jeffers and Clyde Hirshfeld for announcing, and to Marcie Jones for overseeing the GreySave Store. And a special thanks to Sandy Hightower and Cathy Kiburtz for their efforts organizing the event.



We hope to see you next year at the 4th *Annual Race to the Park!* 2010 picnic. In the meantime, plan to attend our other big annual event: *The GreySave Fall Social* at Schabarum Regional Park on Saturday, **October 24**. The theme this year is Octoberfest! Watch the website.



### **Feedback:**

#### *Dear GreySave,*

We brought our first adopted greyhound home on February 7th, 2009 through GreySave. We took her to her very first event this past Saturday at GreySave's Race to the Park Picnic. We wanted you to know that we had a blast! We were so impressed by how organized and smoothly everything ran. The vendors were great. The food was amazing...MUCH more than what we expected. We absolutely loved the beautiful park and the beautiful city of Sierra Madre. We feel blessed to be involved in such a wonderful organization. Thank you so much! We can't wait till the next picnic!

Sincerely,

Christine Mesquit and Michael Rybicki...and Capri (GreySave adoptee)!

A man wrote an email to a small hotel in a Midwest town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote:

*"I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"*

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who said, *"I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel. And, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here as well."*

**Planning to travel this summer with your hounds? Here are a few websites that you might want to check out:**

### How to travel with your dog

<http://dogs.about.com/od/travel/a/travelwithdogs.htm>

### Dog Friendly Hotels and travel guides

<http://www.dogfriendly.com/>

### Petswelcome

<http://www.petswelcome.com/>

### AKC Travel Tips

[http://www.akc.org/public\\_education/travel\\_tips.cfm](http://www.akc.org/public_education/travel_tips.cfm)

### Pet Vacations

<http://www.petvacations.com/>

### Purina - Traveling with your dog

<http://www.purina.com/dogs/safety/TravelingWithYourDog.aspx>

### Take your pet

<http://www.takeyourpet.com/>

### Top 10 Tips

<http://www.travellady.com/Articles/article-dogs.html>

## Guam Grey

GreySave has been involved in the joint effort with other groups to rescue and place dogs from the closed track in Guam. These were special dogs with special stories. If you're not familiar with them please check out the full story at [www.guamgreyhounds.org](http://www.guamgreyhounds.org). The following is the tale of just one.....

Hello Cathy,

Thank you for all the work you do for greyhounds, and especially for helping with the Guam greyhounds. One of the Guammies you have is Witch Doctor, who is being sponsored by a wonderful group in Atlanta. They'd like any photographs or updates you have on him. They know he's been through quite an ordeal, and would like to know how he is progressing. Please email me anything you can, and of course, please let me know when he is adopted.

Thanks again.

Pat Getz, Guam Greyhounds, Greyhound Protection League

Hi Pat,

I'm so happy to share that Doc is doing wonderfully! We foster greyhounds continually, and are always able to be good foster parents and let them go to their forever homes, but we knew Doc was meant to stay with us immediately. We lost one of our greys, a 7 year-old male, to osteosarcoma in April, so there was a special spot waiting for Doc in our pack. He is living with us in Stevenson Ranch, CA. Even though a lot of people kind of bristled at the name "Witch Doctor", we actually think it is really special. When we were thinking of possibly changing the name, I looked up synonyms for witch doctor. They included beautiful words like "shaman" and "healer", and that's exactly what he is - a wise, healing soul. So, he is going to remain Witch Doctor, or Doc for short. Since day 1, Doc was just waiting to be loved. He was so sweet and curious about everything we could offer him. He was especially intrigued by his IG brother - a feisty little dude that likes to play with him! He had a lot of difficulty eating for the first several days. He was almost scared, like he wasn't supposed to eat. I would put his meals down every couple of hours and encourage him. Soon he realized that meal time was party time! He got excited like his siblings and ran to his feeding area. He has blossomed so quickly. He has a wonderful amount of energy for a 9 1/2-year-old. He loves to go on our daily pack walks and also plays in the back yard. We have seen his posture change to one of confidence and pride. He walks around with a little glint in his eye! One of the biggest joys was to see him discover toys. Although he now plays with all the different toys in the house, he has one "favorite toy" that pretty much never leaves his side. He sleeps with it, walks around the house with it, and also even takes it on our walks sometimes! He will carry it in his teeth the whole way. Sometimes I try to get him to give it up before we leave the house and he just can't bear to part with it! It is really entertaining. We will be in the family room and he will be playing in the next room. He will peek around the corner with the toy in his mouth (just to make sure we are still there) then run back and continue playing. He is especially bonding with his grey brother, Romeo. They spend a good deal of time together, and are glued together on our walks. I think they are really going to be best friends. Doc is also unbelievably affectionate. He can't get or give enough hugs and kisses and just wants to be near us all the time. My husband works from home, so Doc gets to kick back and relax with him all day, which he loves.

Thanks so much,  
Jemma Elliot





### Adoptions - since May 2009

Dog name	location
Cancun	Montebello
Sydney	Phoenix
Caraway	Simi Valley
Valentine	Lake Balboa
Honey	Los Angeles
Jamaica	Fontana
Sweetheart	Pasadena
Beau	Long Beach
Zephyr	Thousand Oaks
Darling	West Hollywood
Caesar	Beaumont
Gale	Los Angeles
Sundowner	Corona
Etna	Glendale
Angel	Moorpark
Mariah	Los Angeles
Sprinkles	Long Beach
Sugar	Lake Arrowhead
Sunshine	Corona
Cairns	Beaumont
Branson	Long Beach
Cloudy	Long Beach
Rainbow	Los Angeles
Lightning	San Gabriel
Snowflake	Tehachapi
Hondo	Ventura
Nico	Rancho Cucamonga
Cheri	Los Feliz
Romeo	Stevenson Ranch
Doc	Stevenson Ranch
Brooke	Los Feliz
Frosty	Los Angeles
Dewpoint	West LA
Hanna	Venice
Blizzard	Colton
Fancy	Palmdale
Stormy	Upland
Flurry	Thousand Oaks
Steven	Victorville
Annie Warbucks	Chino Hills
Thunder	Burbank
Rebel	Santa Anna
Poppy	Lake Forest
Kiley	Twin Peaks
Cher	Palmdale

### Summer and Your Greyhound's Health

Summer brings many joys to those fortunate enough to live in Southern California. It also brings dog lovers things to watch out for that are less of an issue at other times.

#### Heatstroke

Warmer temperatures mean the possibility of heatstroke (or hyperthermia), not just for you but also for your dog. Heatstroke occurs when the body can't keep its temperature in a safe range. Dogs don't sweat like we do, so they shed heat by panting. This works their bodies harder, and at some point the effort stresses out their circulatory and respiratory systems. Look for the following signs of heatstroke: *Heavy panting, Red gums and/or tongue, Thick saliva, Dizziness, Vomiting, diarrhea, Shock.* Fortunately, you can prevent heatstroke in your greyhound: 1) Don't travel with your dog on hot days unless you make sure he stays cool (and never leave him alone in the car). 2) Make sure when you leave home that he has plenty of water and a cool place to rest. If your dog seems to have heatstroke, act immediately. A dog with moderate heatstroke (temperature 104° to 106°F - 4° too high) can recover in an hour if given prompt treatment. Move the animal to a cool place and attempt to bring his temperature down quickly by running water first slowly down his back to the tail, then work it down under the belly and across his feet. If that is not possible, apply cold washcloths or cold packs to the dog's head, neck, and paw pads. Get the dog to a veterinarian immediately. Warning: DO NOT immerse a dog who is suffering from heatstroke in cold water. When body temperature is high enough to cause heatstroke, such a dramatic change in temperature can send a dog into shock. *See also the following articles on the GreySave website:*

Traveling with your greyhound (<http://www.greysave.org/traveling.php>)  
Cars, hot weather, and your greyhound (<http://www.greysave.org/hotweather.php>)

#### Fleas

During the summer and fall months, Southern California fights an ongoing battle with fleas. Read the product labels and take precautions when using any flea control chemicals on greyhounds. New flea control products such as *Program, Frontline, and Advantage* involve giving your pet a monthly pill or liquid. All flea treatments must be done in conjunction with flea control directed at the animal's house, dog bed, and yard.

#### Ticks

Ticks live in shrubs and undergrowth, dropping onto animals (including humans) as they pass. They attach themselves and feed, filling their bodies with blood until they look like shiny beads. These insects may be carriers of diseases and can cause serious infections. Inspect your dog for ticks after walks and during grooming sessions. Carefully examine your dog's head and neck area, the ears, and between the toes. Use tweezers to carefully remove any ticks; destroy them by dropping them into rubbing alcohol. A number of greyhound owners use a flea and tick control product like Revolution or Frontline, especially in summer months. The active ingredient *permethrin*, in products like Bio Spot-Spot on For Dogs and K9 Advantix, has recently been associated with poisoning and deaths in dogs, so should be avoided at least for now.

#### Foxtails

In some local areas we seem to have an over abundance of a weed known as foxtail. These weeds can pose serious danger to your pets and frequent grooming is the only simple solution to the problem. Foxtails shed burrs which can work their way through your pet's coat and into the skin. The area between the toes is particularly susceptible. They can also enter through the nose, eyes, ears, and mouth. After walks and during grooming sessions, check your dog thoroughly for foxtails. Once a foxtail has penetrated the tissue, it can migrate to cause infection and may have to be surgically removed. Vigorous head shaking and ear scratching may indicate foxtails in the ears. Sneezing fits and occasional blood discharge from nostrils may be symptoms of foxtails in the nose. Should you notice any of these symptoms, see your veterinarian immediately.

#### Fireworks and Loud Noises

July brings fireworks to many areas of Southern California. See the article, "Your Greyhound and Loud Noises," on the GreySave website (<http://www.greysave.org/loudnoises.php>) for helping your hound learn to deal well with loud noises such as fireworks.

In addition to the articles on our website mentioned above, the following can help you and your grey enjoy a happy and healthy summer.

- Health and Safety Tips (<http://www.greysave.org/health.php>) includes tips on vaccinating your grey, parasites in Southern California (worms, heartworms, fleas, and ticks), avoiding and treating injury from foxtails and heatstroke. Owners of big dogs like greyhounds should pay special attention to the section on Bloat, a condition where the stomach can twist and cause death quickly. Knowing how to spot it and what to do is critical to saving your dog's life.

Have a fun and healthy summer!

### Dewey Pest Control

Goshi and my foster were whining last night and sniffing and barking around the bar area. I thought that the baby possum was still under the house near the heater vent which is right there. I had seen a possum near one of the grates outside a few days ago, so I pulled the grate off so it could get out (and locked the dogs in the house for about an hour. Well it looks like the possum went inside our house rather than up a tree. It was under the sofa, and I thought to myself...how the heck am I going to get a possum out from under the sofa and put it outside?? So I took the easy route, I moved the sofa really quickly and let the foster (Dewpoint) and Goshi have at it. Foster boy was the fastest one and tossed it around a few times, but quickly lost interest once it played dead. Luckily, he was standing near it when it started to move again and finished it off. I grabbed the whole dog bed that the dead possum was on and tossed it out my dining room window, bed and all. So now the chickens can have their turn at the corpse in the Hightower circle of life.



-Sandy



### -Wanted-

- Your greyt stories-
- Your greyt dog photos-
- Your greyt jokes-
- Your greyt input-

Send your "stuff" to Mike at [Racing-heritage@roadrunner.com](mailto:Racing-heritage@roadrunner.com)

### A Poem to My Foster Dog

By Diane Morgan

I am the bridge  
Between what was and what can be.  
I am the pathway to a new life.  
I am made of mush,

Because my heart melted when I saw you,  
Matted and sore, limping, depressed,  
Lonely, unwanted, afraid to love.  
For one little time you are mine.  
I will feed you with my own hand  
I will love you with my whole heart  
I will make you whole.  
I am made of steel.  
Because when the time comes,  
When you are well, and sleek,  
When your eyes shine,  
And your tail wags with joy  
Then comes the hard part.  
I will let you go -- not without a tear,  
But without a regret.  
For you are safe forever -- A new dog  
needs me now.

### Be a GreySave Benefactor

As the number of greyhounds we save grows so do our costs. Despite the heroic efforts of our volunteers and veterinarians, and despite the fact that no one takes a dime in salary, GreySave's adoption fee only covers part of our costs. That's in part because a certain number of dogs we take in are sick or injured. GreySave only continues to function because of the over and above giving of wonderful folks like you. As a GreySave Benefactor, you will receive: everything from your name immortalized on our Benefactor Walk of Fame, free admission to our events, free raffle tickets, free spa treatments, to custom embroidered polo shirts and jackets. See our Benefactor page on the website (under the Help menu.) for the details.

In a press release today, the National Institute of Health has announced the discovery of a potentially dangerous substance in the hair of dogs.

This substance, called "*amo-bacter anis*" has been linked with the following symptoms in humans:

- Reluctance to cook
- Reluctance to perform housework
- Reluctance to wear anything but jeans or sweats
- Reluctance to work except in support of a dog
- Physical craving for contact with dogs (may be an addiction)

BEWARE: If you come in contact with a human affected by this substance, be prepared to talk about greyhounds for hours on end.

This has been a Public Service Announcement...



Did your dog race in Phoenix? Would you like to have the videos of those races? I know you will.....

If you email **Drew Stewart** at Phoenix Greyhound Park and tell him your dog's racing name he will look and tell you if he has his/her races. (You can of course look them up for yourself and save him time) He said that he has most races back about 20 years. Just some of the older ones are on VHS. Drew's email address is [drewlstewart@gmail.com](mailto:drewlstewart@gmail.com). The cost is \$5.00 per race plus shipping, or 5 races for \$20.00 plus shipping (usually \$4.00).

His address is:  
Phoenix Greyhound Park  
ATTN: Drew Stewart  
3801 E. Washington St  
Phoenix, AZ 85034

