

The Home Run

Greyhound Rescue of N.E.

Greyhounds Waiting to Go Home

Winter 2009

Is your cat dog safe?

In August 2004 Diane Henning of GRNE helped Simon go from a parasite-ridden stray cat to a beloved member of a two-Greyhound household. Many people worry that cats and Greyhounds don't make a good mix. Simon's back to tell us all about that first hand.

My name is Schwartz—Simon Schwartz. I'm a cat. A PI—Pussycat Investigator. I pack sharp claws, and even sharper teeth. You want, I can show you my license to carry.

I wasn't always a PI. Five years ago, I was homeless, down-and-out, and hungry in Mendon, MA. I'd been hitting the catnip pretty hard, pretty early in the day. I spent a few weeks detoxing with the help of Diane Henning. If she hadn't stood by me, I wouldn't be living in luxury in Quincy today with my faithful staff.

I have a partner. His name is Little Richard. He's not a PI, he's just a thug. Abandoned on the mean streets of Brighton, scarred and tattered and always ready for a fight. Are you a reader? Watch any TV reruns? Then picture Robert Parker's heroes, Spenser and Hawk. We're just like them, maybe a little smaller—about 1/20th the size of those two guys—and we



The author, in his home office.

use litterboxes. Aside from that, we're exactly the same. Brothers under the fur. Skin. Whatever.

Richard and I live with two Greyhounds. They're not too bright, but they're big, and we have to keep 'em in line. With those two palookas, we're the classic combo: Good Cat, Bad Cat.

Okay, the dogs. Charlie, a.k.a. Chuckles the Clown: big, lean, black, good-natured, easily cowed. Jackie (named for Jackie O, so she has a pretty high opinion of herself): petite, blonde, kinda slow on the uptake. You've probably met bricks with more brains than she has. But man, is she cute. You know

how PIs feel about blondes, right? Just about every case starts with a beautiful blonde coming into the office. They're trouble, blondes. And Jackie is no exception.

See, I'm pretty secure. I don't have anything to prove. Not like Richard, who spends most of every day proving, proving, proving. Sometimes he proves so energetically that he rips clumps of fur off me. I understand he needs to do that. Mostly I let him. Sometimes I don't. That's for me to decide on a case-by-case basis.

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From the Kennel. Ramses is a gentle six year old guy who's been returned twice. He's sweet and loving. But he has a temper. If you get mad at him, he goes into a sort of "fight mode." This is his way of dealing with anger directed at him. Ramses would do best as an only dog with an experienced dog person who will treat him with positive reinforcement only. (He also has a planter's wart that needs to be drummed out about once a month. It's painful for him to walk on hard surfaces.) He's an awesome guy who needs someone to give him a chance at finally having his Forever Home.

Greyhound Festival and Walk

A greyt time was had by all!



It was a beautiful fall day and lots of folks and Greyhounds came out to play. We had raffles, a silent auction, a buffet, and Doggie games! It was awesome. And so many wonderful people participated in our Fundraiser Walk-a-thon.

Overall, we raised over \$7,800! Lots of money to help with all the hounds waiting to come in. As the Massachusetts tracks are closing this winter, the need is greater than ever.

Huge heartfelt thanks to our top 3 pledge collectors:

1st prize Pat Arel
2nd prize Liz Tepper
3rd prize Nancy Rohde

Thanks for coming out and making it such a fun day!



When I Am Old

When I am old I will wear soft gray sweatshirts and a bandana over my silver hair and I will spend my social security checks on wine and my dogs.

I will sit in my house on my well-worn chair and listen to my dogs breathing. I will sneak out in the middle of a warm summer night and take my dogs for a run, if my old bones will allow.

When people come to call, I will smile and nod as I show them my dogs...and talk of them and about them...the ones so beloved of the past and the ones so loved of today.

I will still work hard cleaning after them, mopping and feeding them and whispering their names in a soft loving way.

I will wear the gleaming sweat on my throat like a jewel, and I will be an embarrassment to all, especially my family, who have not yet found the peace of being free to have dogs as your best friends.

These friends who always wait, at any hour, for your footfall and eagerly jump to their feet out of a sound sleep, to greet you as if you are a God, with warm eyes full of adoring love and hope that you will always stay.

I'll hug their big strong necks. I'll kiss their dear sweet heads and whisper in their very special company.

I look in the mirror and see I am getting old. This is the kind of person I am...and have always been.

Loving dogs is easy, they are part of me.

Please accept me for who I am. My dogs appreciate my presence in their lives...they love my presence in their lives.



When I am old this will be important to me. You will understand when you are old, if you have dogs to love too.

—Author unknown

Is your cat dog safe?, continued from page 1

I'm usually Good Cat. Okay, Jackie, roll me around the floor with your nose. Fine. Anything that amuses you, doll. Can't say I enjoy it when she tries to play tiddlywinks with me—she stomps on me with her paw to see if I'll flip around. However, and this is important, I know she'd never hurt me.

Jackie was pegged as being "workable with cats" when she came to us. That means she won't hurt us, but she'll sometimes chase us. Less now than when she first moved in, which is good. Shows she can learn.

Maybe I should be a little more specific about that; she'll chase *me*. Probably because I have long fur and a tail like a squirrel's.

She may be a ditz, but she knows better than to try anything with Richard. As Bad Cat, he makes it pretty clear he's not gonna take it from her, or from any other creature, four- or two-legged. He turns the tables on Jackie pretty good.

When he wants to sniff her feet—or her mouth, or anything he wants to sniff—she stays real still. Terrified he'll hurt her or something. He walks under both dogs, and runs his tail along their bellies. How humiliating is that, huh? He gives them Looks, and they look away. He says jump, and they say, how high, sir?

We're not really the ones who taught Jackie to respect our Feline Superiority. Too gentlemanly, in spite of our tough exteriors. That task fell to our grandmother's late cat Elizabeth. As far as dogs are concerned, she is the Cat from Hell. When Jackie was first introduced to her—muzzled for everyone's safety—Jackie decided she was going to perform a rather intimate inspection on Elizabeth. Elizabeth, who by the way is not licensed to carry, dealt Jackie a no-holds-barred, claws-out swipe across the nose. Boy, did Jackie's eyes water! Jackie's been a little more courteous to all cats since then. It helps to explain things to Jackie real clearly.

So you already have a cat and you think you want to add a Greyhound to your family? You gotta ask yourself: is my cat dog-safe? Will he/she let the dog live? Refrain from eyeing

their food until they're too nervous to eat? Drink out of their water bowl? Commandeer their beds, so the dogs have to sleep on the bare floor? You gotta ask yourself, are you feeling lucky, punk?

Sorry, sometimes I get carried away.

Yeah, we can live together. You just gotta find a dog who respects cats, or can learn to without sacrificing too much of its nose-skin to the cause. You gotta take some time to make sure they're going to be courteous. Sometimes it works right away, sometimes it takes patience and watchfulness.

And sometimes, all it takes is one good swipe across the beezers.



Jackie, hoping Little Richard won't notice her.

Contrary to popular myth, Greyhounds and cats can and often do live together happily if certain precautions are taken:

- If you have a cat or two, work with your adoption organization to find a cat-safe dog, or one who is workable with cats.
- Muzzle and leash the dog before bringing it into the house and introducing it to the cat.
- Do not leave the cats and Greyhounds unsupervised until you are entirely sure that the dog will not try to harm the cat. With "workable with cats" Greyhounds, this may take a while, so you will need to be patient.
- If your cats go outdoors, the dogs should be muzzled outside as well. Simon has vivid memories of his indoor chum, the late Carla, deciding that he was prey when he escaped from the house one day. Even though she would never have harmed him inside, once he was outside, he was pretty happy that she had a muzzle on!
- While it may look cute, always correct a Greyhound who tries to "play" with a cat. Never allow the dog to get away with such behaviour towards its housemate.
- Be aware that not all cats are tolerant of dogs. It is often easier to train a "workable" Greyhound to live with a cat than to train an aggressive cat to accept the dog. 🍖

Holiday Wish List from the Hounds

- Pine Sol to clean our crates
- Laundry detergent to wash our blankets
- Dishwashing liquid to wash our bowls
- Bleach to keep our dog pen clean
- Large pooper scooper (you know what that's for!)
- Kitchen baggies (13 gallon) for our poop
- Stamps to mail our newsletter
- 33" tall crates – ours are getting old
- Forever homes please.

Thanks, with love
from the Hounds.



Part Time Kennel Help! 4 mornings a week, 7:00-11:00.

Want to work with our team taking care of the Hounds and finding them homes?

Call the kennel for more information.



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Please Help Us Help the Greyhounds

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\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

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Mail this form and your check or money order (made payable) to:

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**Greyhound Rescue
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Mendon, MA 01756**

All donations
are tax deductible!

Foster Homes

are always needed. You can help save a Greyhound's life by fostering for 2-4 week period. This will free up a crate in the kennel and we can save another dog. Then you tell us something about the dog's personality, making placement easier.

Board Your Greyhound

We can board up to six Greyhounds at a time here at the kennel. They'll have fun socializing with other Greyhounds in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. We



book up quickly, so let us know as soon as you need to board. We will cater to your Greyhound's every need!

New Boarding Fee effective 1/1/09: Each dog: \$25 per day

We book up quickly so let us know as soon as you need to board!