

The Home Run

Greyhound Rescue of N.E.

Greyhounds Waiting to Go Home

Summer 2008

Greyhound Gala!

Greyhound Festival and Reunion Featuring a Walk-a-thon

September 27, 2008 (rain date Sept. 28)
11:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.
River Bend Farm, Uxbridge, Mass.

Come to a beautiful state park in Uxbridge for an afternoon of fun. Bring your kids and your dog(s), or come alone! There will be vendors with lots of Greyhound merchandise, raffles, a silent auction, games for the dogs, face painting for the kids, information booths, and yummy food.

Don't miss "Ask the Vet" with Dr. Jill Hopfenbeck, Massagio with Pet Massage Specialist Emily Parker, pictures with your dog with Christine Keene's Photography, and information from the GH International scene with the American European Greyhound Alliance. Visit with other

Greyhound owners, shop, eat, and just have fun. Share Greyhound stories or learn something new about this great breed.



Fundraiser Walk-a-thon—same day, same place.

Please help us make this our biggest fundraiser yet!

We're again combining our Reunion with our Annual Walk-a-thon. This is one of our biggest fundraisers so we hope you will all participate. River Bend Farm has a beautiful two-mile walk along the Blackstone River. Just ask friends, family, and coworkers to sponsor your walk. Bring your Sponsor Sheet and donations, and stroll with others along this beautiful river. (You can walk part or all of the two-mile trail.) We've enclosed Walk instructions, a Sponsor Sheet, and directions. There'll be a free sweatshirt for everyone who collects over \$100 and a Goodie Bag stuffed with prizes for all Walk participants! And special prizes for the top three fundraisers, including a first prize of \$250 gift certificate to PetCo!

Schedule of Events

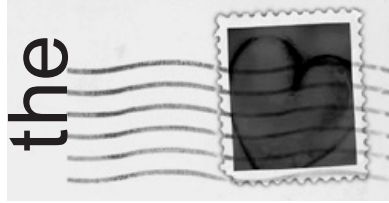
- 11:00 Registration for the Walk
- 12:00 Group Walk along the Blackstone River
- 1:30 Raffle drawings
- 2:00 Top three pledge collectors announced
- 2:00 Doggie games and Costume Contest
- 3:00 Silent Auction ends

Check our Events section on our web page for more detailed info and updates!



From

the



Mailroom

Saturday Night 29 March 2008

Dear Diane,

I had to euthanize my Gracie late yesterday morning. Things went well until last Saturday, when she went blind in her remaining eye (the other one had been removed after it was diagnosed with lymphoma and the same condition seemed to be developing in it). Fortunately her sight returned the next day, we went back on medications, and I hoped that we'd still have some quality time to share. She enjoyed our short walks, rides in the car, eating cookies and ice cream (yogurt) and I fixed her favorite meals. On Thursday she lost her sight again and I could see big changes in the way her eye looked that I was sure must be caused by a buildup of pressure. My vet practice isn't open on Thursdays, but I was able to talk to the vet and the eye specialist on the phone to get pain medicines and restart the stronger glaucoma eye drops. I made an appointment to take her into the clinic Friday morning, knowing that the lymphoma was most likely in the remaining eye and behaving in a very aggressive manner. I knew that I couldn't let her suffer and would have to euthanize her.

Thursday night I slept on the floor beside Gracie's bed so I could pet and comfort her. I told her how full she'd made my heart, how much she'd meant to me all these 8 years we'd been together. It was hard when she had to get up, because she was afraid to take a step and I'd have to hold her and guide her outside and around the house. It made my heart ache. In the morning, I left Gracie sleeping soundly while I quickly went back to my bathroom to get dressed and comb my hair. All of a sudden I heard a little noise and, there she was, standing beside me! I reached over and hugged her and told her what a good girl she was and how happy I was to see her.

What a wonderful gift she gave me. She had managed to quietly find her way from the living room through the kitchen and hallway and bedroom to where I was. As scared as she was to take a step alone, that was an act of courage and it was a gift of love she gave to me. A little while later my sister, Jan, arrived

and it was time to go to the vet. I put on Gracie's coat and told her we'd be going outside and for a ride and her tail started wagging a little bit. I hadn't seen that happen in a week and it made me cry. Her euthanasia was quiet and peaceful and she drifted off with me talking to her and holding her in my arms.

Later at home, when Jan and I were sitting in the kitchen in front of my fireplace having a cup of tea, she noticed that something very special had happened. There was the reflection of a tiny rainbow on the painted wood on my fireplace. We looked over and could see that it was there because the sun was shining through a crystal that was hanging in my window. Jan had given it to me as a gift a while back. Since I hadn't been

looking up at the fireplace, I would've missed the rainbow if Jan hadn't been with me. She said, "Susan, this has to be a message from Gracie, it's just too unbelievable that it's happening now," and she was right. You know, I often sit in front of that fireplace and I've never seen any kind of reflection on it. I think that Gracie wanted me to know that she's able to see and run again and she doesn't hurt anymore.

As you know, Gracie was my first greyhound, a little, independent girl with an unbelievable spirit. Her way of showing love was to "give me her paw" and put her head against my knee so I'd rub her neck. She also did that whenever she'd been ornery and was trying to "suck up" to me. She made me laugh and filled my heart with such joy. She was wonderful with children and, everywhere we went, would tug on her leash to try to get to the people we'd see for some petting and attention. She had an amazing "ripple effect" on my life because, thanks to her, I was introduced to the world of greyhounds and greyhound lovers and so many other special people and friends. After adopting her, I remember wondering how I had ever been able to live without her in my life and I know that I was blessed with the gift of her love. Please keep her in your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Susan and Jack (3/3/2008) and Gracie (3/28/2008)
waiting at the Bridge



From the Kennel: What should they eat?

SO, I'M IN PETCO DOING A MEET & GREET and I see boxes of Organic Dog Cookies for sale. Now I eat a vegan diet, much of which is organic, because I believe what we eat makes a difference in our health and quality of life. So why not get the best for my dogs? What's the best? You can read your dog food ingredients and see for yourself. Below is a little test, which I've copied (with permission) from the Rotts on Parade newsletter. I have to say, it was an enlightening experience. You might want to check out your dog's food. If you buy high quality kibble for your dog at a pet store, you might as well get the best!—Diane

Already Tested & Scored:

Authority Harvest Baked / Score 116 A+
Bil-Jac Select / Score 68 F
Canidae / Score 112 A+
Chicken Soup Senior / Score 115 A+
Diamond Maintenance / Score 64 F
Diamond Lamb Meal & Rice / Score 92 B
Diamond Large Breed 60+ Formula / Score 99 A
Dick Van Patten's Natural Balance Ultra Premium / Score 122 A+
Dick Van Patten's Duck and Potato / Score 106 A+
Foundations / Score 106 A+
Hund-n-Flocken Adult Dog (lamb) by Solid Gold / Score 93 D
Iams Lamb Meal & Rice Formula Premium / Score 73 D
Innova Dog / Score 114 A+
Innova Evo / Score 114 A+
Kirkland Signature Chicken, Rice, and Vegetables / Score 110 A+
Kirkland is sold Exclusively at Costco
Nutrisource Lamb and Rice / Score 87 B
Nutro Natural Choice Large Breed Puppy / Score 87 B
Pet Gold Adult with Lamb & Rice / Score 23 F
ProPlan Natural Turkey & Barley / Score 103 A+
Purina Beneful / Score 17 F
Purina Dog / Score 62 F
Purina Come-n-Get It / Score 16 F
Royal Canin Bulldog / Score 100 A+
Royal Canin Natural Blend Adult / Score 106 A+
Sensible Choice Chicken and Rice / Score 97 A
Science Diet Advanced Protein Senior 7+ / Score 63 F
Science Diet for Large Breed Puppies / Score 69 F
Wellness Super5 Mix Chicken / Score 110 A+
Wolfking Adult Dog (bison) by Solid Gold / Score 97 A

How to grade your dog's food

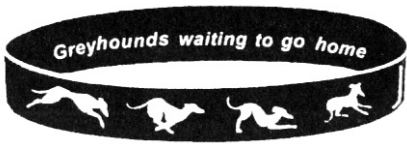
Start with a grade of 100:

- 1) For every listing of "by-product", subtract 10 points
- 2) For every non-specific animal source ("meat" or "poultry", meat, meal or fat) reference, subtract 10 points
- 3) If the food contains BHA, BHT, or ethoxyquin, subtract 10 points
- 4) For every grain "mill run" or non-specific grain source, subtract 5 points
- 5) If the same grain ingredient is used 2 or more times in the first five ingredients (i.e. "ground brown rice", "brewer's rice", "rice flour" are all the same grain), subtract 5 points
- 6) If the protein sources are not meat meal and there are less than 2 meats in the top 3 ingredients, subtract 3 points
- 7) If it contains any artificial colorants, subtract 3 points
- 8) If it contains ground corn or whole grain corn, subtract 3 points
- 9) If corn is listed in the top 5 ingredients, subtract 2 more points
- 10) If the food contains any animal fat other than fish oil, subtract 2 points
- 11) If lamb is the only animal protein source (unless your dog is allergic to other protein sources), subtract 2 points
- 12) If it contains soy or soybeans, subtract 2 points
- 13) If it contains wheat (unless you know that your dog isn't allergic to wheat), subtract 2 points
- 14) If it contains beef (unless you know that your dog isn't allergic to beef), subtract 1 point
- 15) If it contains salt, subtract 1 point

Extra Credit:

- 1) If any of the meat sources are organic, add 5 points
- 2) If the food is endorsed by any major breed group or nutritionist, add 5 points
- 3) If the food is baked not extruded, add 5 points
- 4) If the food contains probiotics, add 3 points
- 5) If the food contains fruit, add 3 points
- 6) If the food contains vegetables (NOT corn or other grains), add 3 points
- 7) If the animal sources are hormone-free and antibiotic-free, add 2 points
- 8) If the food contains barley, add 2 points
- 9) If the food contains flax seed oil (not just the seeds), add 2 points
- 10) If the food contains oats or oatmeal, add 1 point
- 11) If the food contains sunflower oil, add 1 point
- 12) For every different specific animal protein source (other than the first one; count "chicken" and "chicken meal" as only one protein source, but "chicken" and "beef" as 2 different sources), add 1 point
- 13) If it contains glucosamine and chondroitin, add 1 point
- 14) If the vegetables have been tested for pesticides and are pesticide-free, add 1 point

94-100+ A
86-93 B
78-85 C
70-77 D
69 F



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Greyhound Rescue of N.E., Inc.
P.O. Box 507
Mendon, MA 01756



Please Help Us Help the Greyhounds

I would like to help support Greyhound Rescue of N.E.'s efforts by contributing:

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

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

For Emergency Medical Fund: \$ _____

Name _____

**Greyhound Rescue
of N.E., Inc.
P.O. Box 507
Mendon, MA 01756**

Address _____

Phone _____

All donations are tax deductible!

E-mail _____



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 1/1/05: Each dog: \$20 per day

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