

Steel City Greyhounds Greys' Praise



Zest and Valentine

From the desk of
Marci Anderson, Presi-

your greyhound, I cannot stress enough how important it is to schedule an initial visit with your veterinarian so that he or she can get to know your pet! Having a record of your greyhound is important, especially if you find that your greyhound needs emergency care.

As many of you know, I just returned from visiting Barcelona, Spain and the headquarters of SOS Galgos. Anna Clements and Alberte Sorde found us four wonderful galgos and one retired racer to bring back to Pittsburgh. A brief, but funny event occurred on the return trip that I'd like to share. Our flight began in Barcelona, then to Madrid, then to JFK, where the trip hit a snag. It turned out that the plane from JFK to Pittsburgh was too small to transport any of the dogs! We ended up spending the night in a conference room for Delta employees in the JFK airport! We woke up at 4:30 am to catch a 6:00 am flight to Atlanta the next day and then board the proper sized plane to Pittsburgh. I'd like to leave you with brief descriptions of our night at the JFK airport. I'm sure many of you can conjure up some sort of picture in your mind oftwo humans sleeping on a cot....airplane pillow....airplane blanket....five dogs having the run of the room....everyone eating a Burger King hamburger for dinner.... humans cleaning up accidents....greyhound playtime around 2:00 am...4:30 am wake up call.... Dog walking in a parking lot at 4:45 am....going through TSA security with five dogs....getting home approximately 36 hours after we departed Barcelona!

If anyone can think of a "Priceless" commercial out of this scenario—feel free to submit it!

Happy Springtime to all!!

*Don't forget: ***Steel City Greyhounds Bath-a-Thon—Sunday, May 7th — 10am until 1 pm at The Golden Bone Pet Resort — \$20 donation — available greyhounds will be in attendance. Keep watching the website for more details or call 412-362-2470 for more information.*

INDI THE HARD-LUCK HOUND

By Kyle Catanzarite

The first time I met Indefatigable (Indi for short), he was an imposing sight. He is a large, black greyhound with penetrating eyes and body language that communicates confidence. I was intrigued by his name and little did I know how soon his indefatigable determination to survive would be tested.

Indi had a "tough guy" image at the greyhound farm in West Virginia and I have to admit that I was somewhat intimidated by his size and no-nonsense look! I was anxious to find out how Indi would react to living in our kennel and how he would interact with my husband Bob, the kennel staff and me.

Apparently, Indi decided to leave the image behind in West Virginia and reinvent himself as an outgoing, amiable and affectionate hound. Like all of the greyhounds that stay in our kennel awaiting adoption, Indi soon bonded with everyone who cared for him. He became a very happy hound and seemed to enjoy taking part in the nonsensical behavior that is so common among the hounds in our care. Unfortunately, Indi had developed a case of "happy tail" which is very common in greyhounds.

Our efforts to keep his tail bandaged met with little success and before long, Indi and I made a visit to the vet who determined that he needed to part with about 8 inches of his tail. The surgery went well and soon the happy patient was wagging his newly cropped and bandaged tail as much as ever.

Shortly after Indi had the sutures removed from his tail, he pulled the end of a nylon leash, that was accidentally left hanging on the front gate of his kennel unit, inside and ate the handle overnight. It went unnoticed the next morning, but later in the day when Indi vomited pieces of the leash in his food, Bob and I saw the missing end of the leash and called the vet. After an exam and x-rays, the vet recommended that Indi stay a few days for observation with the hope that the leash would pass through his intestinal tract without surgical intervention. The surgery is expensive and more importantly, it can be complicated.

After two days of hoping and waiting, Indi had surgery for the second time in just over two weeks. He amazed the vets and other staff alike with his resiliency and was on his feet and wagging his abbreviated tail in record time. He had lost weight, but had a healthy appetite, so everyone was confident that he would gain what he had lost very quickly.

Things seemed to be going well initially after surgery, but Bob and I noticed that even though Indi was eating well, he was not gaining weight. His energy level was good and his tail never stopped wagging so we decided to wait until the abdominal sutures were removed to ask the vet if we should be concerned. When Indi had his sutures removed, the vet examined him and felt there was no cause for alarm. He reassured us that it was not uncommon following the type of surgery he had for weight gain to progress slowly. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)



(INDI CONTINUED)

Sometime during the night after our visit to the vet, Indi vomited what appeared to be about 10 cups of food. He was lethargic and his abdomen was distended. Bob and I both thought he was suffering from bloat, so Bob made a quick call and I made a mad dash to the vet. When we arrived, the vet had x-rays done immediately and after review determined that adhesions had formed in the intestinal tract and created a blockage. At that point, the vet told me that surgery would have to be performed immediately for Indi to have any chance to survive. He was not optimistic that Indi would pull through the surgery, giving him only about a 25% chance, and asked that I give him approval to euthanize Indi if he felt there was no opportunity to save him once he opened his abdomen again.

I had planned to travel to West Virginia that day to bring more adoption dogs from the farm, and as I said goodbye to Indi, I was painfully aware that it might be the last time. I asked the vet to call me as soon as he had some information about Indi's condition and then I left. I tried to distract myself with loud music on the way to the farm, but I was anxious and worried. Indi and I had bonded so closely and I couldn't bear the thought of losing him.

After a few hours, the vet called to tell me that miraculously, Indi survived the surgery. He said his intestinal tract was a mess where the adhesions had formed and the next 48 hours would be critical in his recovery process. I don't remember much about the next two days, other than I prayed a lot and spent quite a bit of time with Indi who was now thin and receiving antibiotics and fluids intravenously. After 48 hours, he was able to start drinking water and after 72 hours, he was able to start eating small meals several times daily. From the time Indi came to our kennel until just after the surgery, he looked so thin and tired that it made me cry. He wagged his tail, nonetheless, to let me know, I'm sure, that he had every intention of living up to his name!

After five days in recovery, Indi came "home." He moved into a crate in our family room where he would stay for a week. It was away from Breeze, Sara, Cole, and Chloe, my motley crew who were more than eager to meet Indi and aid in his recuperation! At the end of the week, Indi's crate was moved to our lower level living space we share with our hounds. The welcoming committee was very curious about the mysterious houseguest and spent a lot of time sniffing around the crate.

We handled introductions slowly and carefully. We weren't concerned at all about how the "girls" would receive Indi, but Cole is a different story. He is pushy and while Breeze and Sara are accepting of his immaturity, we were not sure Indi would appreciate Cole's sense of humor. Chloe, our non-greyhound, canine family member, has no interest in greyhounds, so we knew she

would rather see Indi vaporize than go near him.

Since we have an enclosed area connected to our house where the dogs can be turned out on their own, we don't need to walk them. But, because we decided that the interaction needed to be controlled outside, we walked Indi until there appeared to be a comfort level among the pack members. For all intents and purposes, Indi appeared to be out of the woods, but the little voice in my head (different from the ones I normally hear) reminded me that the vet said there would still be a risk of adhesions forming for as long as a month after the surgery. There was more waiting and worrying to do!

A little over two weeks following Indi's surgery. Bob, our daughter Alexa and I went on a trip. Indi and our hounds stayed in our boarding kennel under the watchful eye of our very competent staff. While I knew Indi was receiving excellent care, I continued to worry about the formation of adhesions, which I knew could claim Indi's life. While the family time was wonderful and provided a much-needed rest for all of us, concerns over Indi were ever present in my mind.

As I type, it is a month after Indi's surgery. He has gained all of the weight he lost and looks like a completely different greyhound. I'm told he enjoyed his kennel stay and ate everything in sight, not including a leash!

It may come as no surprise that we have decided to adopt this indefatigable hound that found a special place in our hearts and a forever place in our home!

CoCo CHANEL

Hi, we are Michael, Denise, Raena and Rylee Smyda. We have a 16 year-old Dalmatian named Paisley and we are first time Greyhound owners. We are so happy with our new family member. Not only is she good with our two daughters ages 5 and 2, but she is so gentle with our old lady Paisley. We have found her to be such a puppy.

She is 2 years-old and her registered name is JNB Michigan, but we call her CoCo Chanel. She loves to run and run around our couch. We know she feels good after one of her outings when she releases much of her energy. She then comes into the house and just wants to play. She will throw around a toy and chase it all by herself and won't let anyone else play with her. However, if you are willing and want to race her, look out! She will start nipping at me as if to say, "Get a move on!" What I have learned to do is, before she catches up to me, I either fall onto the couch or jump over the back of the couch and she will run around it until she finds me or she will jump up after me and then will want me to go again. So I do! She is so lovable and such fun, we all just love her. Even the lady that comes quarterly to bathe Paisley, bathed CoCo for the first time and loved her personality too! Thank you for letting us become a part of the SCG greyhound family. The laughter she has brought to our home is wonderful!

Note: On April 6, 2006, Paisley Martini Smyda passed on to where she is no longer in pain. We greatly miss her and her frolicking, which was almost non-existent the last few months.

DIRECT FROM SPAIN!!

GALGOS!!



LIDIA

Here is the one and only “Lidia.” She is quite a character! She is bubbly, happy, and gives tons of kisses. She is a pretty brindle girl with tons of personality. She is curious and wants to be wherever you are. She goes into her crate fine, but does bark letting you know that she wants to be with

you! She wants to take you for a walk and pulls a bit on the lead. She is probably between 1 and 2 years-old and definitely acts like a pup. If you would like to visit with her, she is residing at the Golden Bone Pet Resort!

PAPPY



He is just about the sweetest old guy you may ever meet! This long-haired, shaggy brindle boy is approximately 7 or 8 years old. He has been nicknamed “Pappy” by the staff at the Golden Bone Pet Resort. He was rescued out of a shelter where he was to be euthanised in four days. He had an infected bite wound on his face, but it is healing nicely with antibiotics. He was just recently neutered and had six teeth

pulled! He is extremely quiet, subdued and content to just lay on soft bedding. He sure did survive years of neglect in Spain and I would consider him very lucky. “Pappy” should live in a home with no cats. He would also probably do better in a calmer home environment. If you would like to visit with “Pappy,” he is residing at the Golden Bone Pet Resort.



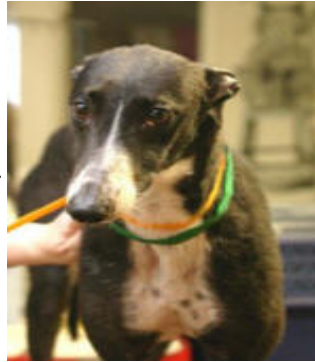
NOA

Meet “Noa!” She is a black female galgo from Barcelona who is about 2 years-old. She is a happy girl and wags her tail at everyone! She even smiles when really excited! She is very loving and already knows how to

curl up on a soft chair or couch. She is confident and vibrant! She is scheduled to be spayed and have a wellness check by a veterinarian very soon! She seems to not mind cats and just gives a sniff and walks away. If

you are interested in visiting with “Noa,” she is residing at the Golden Bone Pet Resort.

**SANWICH



Here is a retired racer from the Meridiana Race Track in Barcelona. Her name is “Sanwich.” She is Irish born and a very lucky girl to even be rescued from the recently closed track. When the track closed in March of this year, there were approximately 700 greyhounds in the kennels.

Unfortunately, the operators of this track refuse to work with any adoption groups in Europe and many of these dogs are being sent to Casablanca, Morocco, and various other substandard tracks. “Sanwich” was mysteriously rescued and luckily given to SOSGalgos for adoption. She is an absolute sweetheart and very outgoing. She is extremely content using a crate and quite intelligent. She seems to not mind cats and just gives a sniff and walks away. She is residing at the Golden Bone Pet Resort.

****Two volunteers from GPA/SCG traveled to Barcelona, Spain at their own expense to rescue Galgos from our Paws Across the Pond partner SOSGalgos. (sosgalgos.com) The cost of rescuing each Galgo easily exceeds \$1000. The Galgo rescue is not funded by GPA/Steel City Greyhounds in any way. It is requested that a \$300 reimbursement fee is made to these volunteers to partially offset the cost of rescue, transport and veterinary procedures.****

HEART WARNING SIGNS IN OLDER DOGS

Eloise D. Morano

Sudden, rapid weight loss. Constant panting. These two things in an older dog can spell heart trouble — but the kind that can be treated with drugs to maintain your dog’s quality of life.

We almost missed those signs with our 13 year-old greyhound. But then she began coughing every night. Our vet diagnosed congestive heart failure practically on sight, but confirmed it with an x-ray. God bless him! The drugs made a difference in her comfort level within the first hour, and she will be on them for the rest of her life.

Our vet’s message to those of you with older hounds — if you see the sudden rapid weight loss and the panting, get your hound in for a heart check-up. Don’t delay.

(Editor’s note: the panting was the sign my Brittany needed to see the vet and they confirmed that she had had a stroke. She lived a very good life on Enalapril for 5 more years before

YIKES! THAT BONKERS SEPARATION ANXIETY - SOMETHING THAT COULD HELP YOUR DOG...

Eloise D. Morano (with help from Finley O'Roo)

How many of us have a sweet male greyhound who goes bonkers with separation anxiety when we leave the house? Shredding books and shoes, and finally peeing in fear and frustration on the corners of furniture? Many, many of us, I suspect.

We adopted Finley O'Roo from SCG two years ago, and he still gets separation anxiety. Badly. We have even videotaped him when we were gone, by placing the running camera on the dining room table. The resulting tape would break your heart with the moaning, the searching, the pacing, the searching, the pacing, the looking out the windows. The never sitting down, unless it is to chew something up. What's worse is there's a kind of nervous male dog "marking" behavior that goes along with it. It's not revenge or any real need to pee — it is entirely nervous, anxious and frustrated.

How many people, I wonder, could be prevented from returning one of these sweet males if there was only a cure?

Well, unfortunately, there isn't anything 100 percent. Or instant. But we are using a couple of natural products that could help.



COMFORT ZONE - (CALMING PHEROMONES)

First is a product called Comfort Zone, which mimics a natural reassuring pheromone produced by female dogs when nursing. It's odorless and non-toxic, does not affect humans. Not a drug or tranquilizer, it's liquid pheromones in a bottle that plugs into an electrical outlet. Hugely expensive when purchased at places like Petsmart, though — so do a search for it online first. Even with shipping, you can do better than what they charge at the pet store. A couple of sites we have ordered from include: petvtdirect.com and biovets.com.

To use it: simply plug the unit into an outlet in the room your pet frequents most; effective in areas up to 600 square feet. The starter package comes with one plug-in and one 48 ml. Bottle (1.691 oz.). Refills are sold separately, and there is a spray version if you prefer to spray some on multiple dog beds.

One caveat: The instructions say to leave the diffuser plugged in all the time in the room the dog frequents most. We tried that, and it seemed that Finley got used to it and went back to his old destructive, anxious ways in a

few weeks. You know these greys — very cagey! Here's what we recommend (and you go through less of the product this way, too): with the plug in diffuser, insert it into the outlet a couple of hours in advance of leaving the house, as it takes the liquid a bit of time to heat and disperse from the diffuser. (It never gets super hot, so nosy doggie noses will not be burned.) Probably using the spray on an as-needed basis would work, too, sprayed on bedding.

BACH FLOWER REMEDIES: RED CHESTNUT FOR ANXIETY

The second thing we use is one of the Bach Flower Remedies. These 38 homeopathically prepared Original Flower Essences discovered by Edward Bach in the 1930's represent a complete system of healing directed at the personality, mood and emotional outlook of an individual. Originally created for humans, they are effective natural remedies for the entire family — including children and animals.

The all-purpose Rescue Remedy has bought time for many dogs in life threatening situations, allowing them to hang on while being transported to the vet. My husband and I have rescue remedy in its little dropper bottle in the glove compartment of our "doggie" vehicle, and never travel without it.

In the case of separation anxiety, the specific Bach Flower remedy is Red Chestnut. I give Finley a dropperful of this before leaving the house. I believe he has started to associate it with remaining calm while we are gone.

KEEP AT IT AND DON'T GIVE UP

Don't expect miracles. But don't give up, either. Keep at it. We have found that persisting in using these two methods together is slowly curing our sweet, loveable boy of his separation anxiety. And that is a joy to our hearts, as well as a welcome relief to our rugs, books and shoes!

Greyhounds have a double suspension gallop (they run like a cheetah, not like a horse). When running, greyhounds spend 80% of their time in the air. It is as close to "flight" as a land animal can get.





SATURDAYS WITH THE GREYS

By Kelly and Joe DeGroot (proud grey parents of Tuxie)

Over the past few months, my husband and I have taken time out of our busy schedules to walk some of the greys that are up for adoption at the Golden Bone Pet Resort. We have had the honor of spending time with *Royal Flush* and *Anaiken Skywalker* who each have found a forever home, and our buddy *Jack* who has been at the Golden Bone now for quite

a while and is still searching for his forever home.

We wanted to share our experiences with other SCG family members to let them know what an experience it has been to socialize with these dogs, find out that they have a new home and then hear from their new families who have even shared pictures with us!

I think one of our favorite memories is getting Jack in the car for the first time and he immediately went to sleep! He was so comfortable and relaxed in the car that it made us both smile. Just to see the joy on Jack's face when he saw people, went for a nice long walk, or had a trip to Petco you know made his day and ours too. Due to recent family obligations, we have not had the chance to get to the Golden Bone as often as we like, but we

THE NEW ADDITION

Carol Atkinson

I have two greys age 6 and 7 so when I went to adopt another one, I decided to go with a 2 1/2 year-old thinking age would make no difference. Boy was I wrong!!! Gunner joined Rayn and Phoenix 4 months ago and life has not been the same since. I never thought he would have so much puppy in him at 2 1/2. What was I thinking?

Gunner is a very busy guy especially when I'm at work. Nothing is safe. Nothing! Each day he finds something new that interests him and plays with it. When I get home (sometimes I'm afraid to open the door) the house is never the same. One day he found a basket with magazines in it. Now I have no magazines and no basket (chewed beyond recognition). Another day it was receipts and bills, yes bills!! Try to tell people that story — My dog chewed the bill. I have come home and put on my button-down sweater and found that it doesn't have any buttons anymore. They were thrown everywhere. Thank goodness he didn't eat them.

One day I came home from work and had to take Phoenix right out the door to the vet so I couldn't get them their dinner on time. When we got back, Gunner had taken the lid off the dog food container and fed himself and Rayn. I have no idea how much they ate that day but their bellies were solid and they slept all evening. I was amazed how smart he was to do that. I did laugh about that incident.

I am an avid reader and I don't know if Gunner is trying to read too or if he's jealous of the books. I will be laying on the couch reading and he takes a flying leap onto me and wants attention. That's 80 pounds coming through the air. Other times I've gotten up in the morning and found 2 or 3 books that were chewed during the night. These are hardback books that I keep after I've read them. My collection has gotten smaller and smaller. The door to that room is closed now when I can't keep an eye on

him. Also at night in the wee hours I will wake up to jingle bells. It's a toy Gunner got for Christmas. It's 3 months later and I can't believe the squeaker still works. I keep hoping he'll break it but no such luck yet. I hate that song now. When I try to go back to sleep, it keeps playing in my head.

I have three dog stands with two bowls in each. The bowls were plastic but now they are stainless steel. Gunner chewed up the plastic bowls. Poor Rayn and Phoenix don't know why everything is changing, but their life is not boring with Gunner around.

For awhile all 3 started jumping the baby gates and no one was where they were supposed to be when I got home. I think Phoenix started that but Gunner picked it right up. Besides being a jumper, he thinks he's a guard dog. Anything moving inside or out gets his bark going. That's something else I wasn't used to. Phoenix and Rayn are quiet. One of Gunner's newest interests is the TV remote. I find it in his bed a little the worse for wear. I now have a permanent note on the coffee table so I remember to put it away.



When it's warm, all three go on the deck for some air. Rayn and Phoenix relax but Gunner is busy again. The lattice work got chewed, the chair got chewed and the table got chewed along with his bed out there. A lot of grass is gone now too. He never slows down. Busy, busy, guy!

Every day with Gunner is a surprise and a challenge. He's a great dog and I love him dearly, but he is a young dog. If you adopt, take into consideration the dog's age. If you like walks, an active companion, and plenty of action, another Gunner is for you.

STEEL CITY GREYHOUNDS

6890 FIFTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15208
412.362.2470 PHONE
412.661.5211 FAX

E-Mail info@steelcitygreyhounds.org
The "Best New Hounds" In Town

THE UNOFFICIAL GREYHOUND TOY TEST

Testing conducted by Marena Riggin and Erin Davis

Undoubtedly some, or maybe many, of the toys you gave your Greyhounds for Christmas have come and gone! So now that they are history, which ones were the most exciting, durable and fun? What do your hounds really want since there are so many choices? Sometimes you think you have a winner and your Greyhound doesn't agree with you — turns out the packaging is more appealing than the prize inside. What's a human to do? All that time spent looking for just the right toy, only to find that it doesn't receive the tail-wagging response you were expecting! Don't despair; the results of the unofficial greyhound toy test are available in print for the first time anywhere!

The test was conducted at Marena's Greyhound farm in Triadelphia, West Virginia. Both Marena and Erin were the testing "officials". How the anticipation grew as the pack of toys was opened. It was a variety pack! Some toys squeaked, some relieved stress, some encouraged interaction and some just wreaked havoc in the kennel.

A wide selection of Greyhounds was used for the test. Moms, racers, pets and puppies participated to include representatives from distinct groups of hounds. Each hound was standing on its hind legs and anxiously barking for the opportunity to play!

The first toys to be tested were a green fabric, stuffed frog and a fluffy yellow duck that squeaked when squeezed. Wow! Were those toys ever attention getters! Everyone wanted a piece of the action. Phantom, a petite black female, who is just 2 years old, threw the frog from corner to corner of her pen. She was so excited that she nearly threw herself into the wall. She jumped and flipped the frog. Once she determined that she could make the frog squeak by pushing on a spot, she made "frog music" for all of the hounds to hear! Gimli, a 3 year-old, red female liked the squeaking duck just as much as Phantom liked the frog. She carried the duck around for a long time, even taking it outside on a cold day to play. Both of these plush toys brought big smiles from the hounds and humans alike and received a 5 "paw" rating!

Two different types of ropes were tossed about. One rope had knots on each end and another type had the same knots on the end with a tennis ball in the middle. The plain-knotted rope was given to McGwire,



a 3 year-old brindle male with a lot of personality. He loved it and tried desperately to tear it apart. This toy received a 4 "paw" rating because of the concern that some of the hounds would destroy it entirely.

The other knotted rope with the tennis ball in the middle was given to Swiss Star, a pretty, 6 year-old mother of 8 beautiful puppies. The toy intrigued Swissie, but the tennis ball made it hard for her to pick up the rope. This toy received a 3 "paw" rating. Oddly enough, a big, long red tongue with a small ball at the end was part of the toy package. This strange toy was given to Beast. He is a big, 3 year-old brindle hound and quite a lovable fellow! He showed interest in the tongue and tossed it around. This toy was easy to pick up and gnaw on. The only drawback was that the plastic started to break apart after only one day of use, so the toy only earned a 2 "paw" rating.

Indefatigable, who is better known as "Indi the Hard Luck Hound" was given the most boring toy to test. It was a cone-shaped, chew toy covered in tennis ball fabric. It wasn't a toy that was good for performing tricks, and Indi wasn't impressed. His "that's it?" expression earned this toy a meager 1 "paw" rating.

A bright, red and white, soft Frisbee with a squeaky ring on the outside was given to Frodo, a frisky, 3 year-old brindle male. He sniffed at the toy for a while trying to figure out what to do with it. It was a cute toy and a good idea, but seemed only useful for outside play. It didn't much appeal as an indoor toy, so it received a 1 "paw" rating. It could be a 5 "paw" winner during a day at the park!

A pig hoof is stress relieving and weatherproof treat and toy. Crewcut, a 3 year-old, blue brindle hound took the hoof straight to his bed to protect it. It was flavorful and seemed to soothe him. It received a 4 "paw" rating for multiple uses.

A Kong toy seems to be a favorite among the majority of hounds and humans. They come in different sizes and can be stuffed to make them even more appealing. Peanut butter, Dyne or any other sweet liquid can be placed inside them. Kongs are open at both ends, so the liquid can be poured in and swirled around to avoid a mess. Canned food can be used to stuff a Kong and this is a very useful crate-training tool. After a few hours chewing on the Kong and working to remove the dog food or peanut butter, the hounds are simply serene. Kongs are a 5 "paw" favorite!

Even after an exhaustive testing session, like the one Marena and Erin conducted, it is still very hard to determine what toys are the best buy and impossible to know what your hound will like after it is bought. Like humans, each greyhound has a different personality and different preferences, so while one greyhound in a family may love a particular toy, another one may be totally disinterested in it.

Enjoy the challenge of purchasing

