

News and Roos

From

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.



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Issue #13

WHAT IS YOUR LUCKY NUMBER?!!

As you can see from above, this is our 13th issue of our newsletter. There's nothing unlucky about this issue, and we plan to continue bringing you 'News and Roos' on a regular basis. We hope that you enjoy receiving and reading its contents every three months.

If you are an internet junkie (and pretty much everyone is always 'searching' the internet), you might notice that quite a few greyhound groups have links to their newsletters, but often the frequency of the issues becomes sporadic or non-existent after a period of time. Why is this?

First, it does take time and effort to put together the newsletter. Some groups use blogs, Facebook, or other social media to communicate information. Also, we may not know what really interests you, so TRG encourages you to make suggestions for articles or even submit an article that might provide information, education, or just plain enjoyment to those that receive this. You can do this by sending an email to info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org – we definitely appreciate and need your input.

So here are few other numbers that TRG considers lucky or just greyt news!



4 years ago, GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds became a chapter
139 – Number of TRG adoptions since chapter began
1987- the year that GPA was founded
2014 – next year we will be hosting the North American Greyhound
Adoption Conference in June
Limitless - number of volunteers we need to keep spreading the
message of greyhound adoption.



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GREYHOUNDS AND BABESIA



Greyhounds are fantastic companions at home and on walks, but forays into the greater outdoors can expose both hounds and their humans to various disease-causing agents. Lyme disease is probably the most familiar of these diseases, particularly in the northeastern US. However, we should be aware of another parasite called *Babesia*.

Babesiids are tick-borne protozoal parasites of the blood. Because the *Babesia* organism is on the surface of the red blood cell, white blood cells (macrophages in particular) can recognize something out of the ordinary. Macrophages will

destroy the red blood cell, eventually causing a significant decrease in the number of red blood cells in circulation. When this happens, and there are no other underlying diseases, the body will start to increase production of red blood cells, often releasing them in a premature state. A clinician can determine how well the body is handling the parasite load by quantifying the number of premature red blood cells found in circulation. During this cycle, the symptoms will include fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, and pale or jaundiced mucous membranes. One of the byproducts of red blood cells is bilirubin, a compound that causes a yellow tint in mucous membranes and the cornea.

This article was written by Dan Finnegan, a second year veterinary medicine student at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University, North Grafton, Massachusetts.

It is thought that both *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (brown dog tick) and *Ixodes scapularis* (black legged or deer tick) can transmit *Babesia*. The brown deer tick has been shown to carry and transmit both *Babesia* and *Ehrlichia canis* (Canine Ehrlichiosis), and the deer tick carries and transmits *Babesia*, *Borellia burgdorferi* (Lyme Disease), and *Ehrlichia canis*. These are all common types of ticks found in the northeastern US.

Although more than 100 species of *Babesia* have been discovered, traditionally only two cause disease in dogs: *Babesia canis* and *Babesia gibsoni*. There are three subtypes of *Babesia canis*: *B. canis canis*, *B. canis vogeli*, and *B. canis rossi*. In the U.S., the most common subtype is *vogeli*, which is the least pathogenic form. While it can cause life-threatening disease in young or heavily parasitized dogs, most of those infected in the U.S. are subclinical carriers only.² This subtype is endemic in the southeastern U.S., particularly among greyhounds.

Greyhounds appear to be at higher risk for Babesiosis because of housing conditions at the track, living in close quarters in areas where there may be an endemic burden of *Babesia*. In 1992, a researcher found that 46% of Florida racing greyhounds had positive titers for *Babesia canis*. While a positive titer does not necessarily indicate a current infection, it means the dog had at least one infection in the past and its body is still producing the antibodies.¹

Prior to 1969, *Babesia* infections in humans were considered rare. However, in the years since, there have been hundreds of cases, mostly in the northeastern United States, of infection with *Babesia microti*. This species is a parasite of meadow voles and other rodents, but also infects pets (including dogs!) and humans alike.³

There is currently only one treatment for *Babesia* infection in the United States, imidocarb dipropionate (trade name: IMIZOL), an antiprotozoal agent. The treatment consists of two doses administered two weeks apart, but additional treatments are sometimes necessary to clear the parasitemia. Still, even after treatment has eliminated the parasites, the body will continue to produce antibodies in order to protect itself from future infections, decreasing the probability of a reinfection.

One unique aspect about retired racing greyhounds is the regularity with which they serve as blood donors. Greyhounds are often cited as great donors because of blood types, quantity of blood provided, and the ease with which it can be collected. Because dogs infected with *Babesia* can readily transmit the parasite to others through blood transfusions, shared needles, and possibly fight wounds, it is important that your greyhound is properly screened prior to donating blood. In fact, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine published guidelines in 2005 called "Canine and Feline Blood Donor Screening for Infectious Disease."⁴ The very first recommended test for dogs within the *Vectorborne Disease* category is Babesiosis, and they go on to state that there is a high seroprevalence of *Babesia canis* in Greyhounds. If a blood collection service adheres to these guidelines, a positive test for *Babesia* antibodies will exclude the dog from donating.

The simplest and safest method to avoid *Babesia* infection in your Greyhound is the prevention of the disease. This includes the use of tick prevention medications, avoiding walks through tick infested areas, and regular inspection of your greyhound to check for ticks. They will thank you for it!

References

[1] A. Birkenheuer, M. Correa, M. Levy, and E. Breitschwerdt. Geographic distribution of babesiosis among dogs in the United States and association with dog bites: 150 cases (2000-2003). Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 227(6):942-947, September 2005.

[2] D. K. Macintire. Canine babesiosis continues to create challenges for practitioners. <http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=60100&pageID=1> , June 2003.

[3] L. Roberts and J. Janovy. Gerald D. Schmidt and Larry S. Roberts' Foundations of Parasitology. McGraw- Hill, 8 edition, 2009.

[4] K. Wardrop, N. Reine, A. Birkenheuer, A. Hale, A. Hohenhaus, C. Crawford, and M. Lappin. Canine and Feline Blood Donor Screening for Infectious Disease. Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine, 19:135- 142, 2005.



FALL BATH-A-THON SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 15

TRG will hold its fall bath-a-thon on **Sunday, September 15** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at TanZar Kennels in Wexford, PA.

For a donation of \$20, your greyhound will be bathed, and have his/her ears cleaned and nails trimmed.

We will also have our TRG store, with items to purchase: t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. for the humans, collars for the hounds, decals, etc.

And of course snacks and beverages for the humans!

PLEASE NOTE: There is no home Steeler game that day. We hope that you can join us for this event. Funds raised will help defray adoption and medical expenses for the greyhounds that come into our program.

Your greyhound will enjoy the pampering, and you'll have a sweet-smelling hound to take home!



HELPING HOUNDS BUFFET COMING IN OCTOBER



The second annual Helping Hounds Buffet will be held on Sunday, October 6th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Ferrante's Lakeview Restaurant on Route 30, Greensburg.

The buffet is a feast of pasta for both meat lovers and vegetarians alike! Aside from the buffet, we will have a Chinese auction, silent auction and special raffles throughout the afternoon.

This is an advance reservation only event as we have to let the venue know how many to prepare for. Tickets are \$25/person – this includes a full pasta buffet with coffee/tea. Cash Bar available.

We will have Chinese auction items, silent auction items and special raffles throughout the day.

Current adoptable hounds looking for their forever homes will be there to meet and greet you, too.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Dan at 724-454-5035 or emailing Susy at susy@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org . Don't miss this fun afternoon!! And NO! There is NOT a Steelers game that day! ☺

GREYT WISDOMS



Those of us that have brought a greyhound into our lives share a love and passion like no other. The soulfulness of their eyes, regal looks, and sometimes zany manners make us melt.

We are all family. We were brought together when we adopted our first hound. Our family is huge and includes members we don't even know.

If you "google" famous people that own greyhounds, you will find past and present members of our family come from all walks of life, including royalty, authors, actors, athletes and even presidents! I've never met Cleopatra, author J.K. Rowlings, President John Tyler or actress Bo Derek, but they are part of our family.

While our family is huge, we need to continue to make it grow. We need to continue to increase our family size until all retired racing greyhounds have found their forever homes! Spread the word.....

BOWLING FOR GREYHOUNDS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Many thanks to the over 50 bowlers who participated in Bowling for Greyhounds on August 4th – it was a new record! Because of your generosity and those that sponsored or donated auction items, we were able to raise over \$900 for the hounds!

A special thank you to our t-shirt sponsor, Lou's Barber Shop in Latrobe.

Fun was had by all, and many went home with door prizes and Chinese auction wins. BUT everyone went home with the satisfaction that they helped the greyhounds while having a GREYT time.

Missed it this year? Well, mark your calendars now! The 9th Annual Bowling for Greyhounds will be held on Sunday, August 3, 2014 from 2-5 pm.

Thank you to both Susy and Dan Durso for coordinating this event.



FORE! THE HOUNDS GOLF OUTING

The 7th Annual Fore! The Hounds Golf Outing was held on July 28 at Lakevue North Golf Club in Butler.

The weather was beautiful and the golf was even better! With the entry fee, Chinese auction and 50/50 proceeds, we raised just over \$600 this year.

Thanks to all who came out to support the hounds!

Special thanks to greyhounds Promise, Rosie and Rummy who greeted the golfers at the 19th hole.

TRG also extends a greyt big "greyhound roo" to Ruth Scheller and her sister Coleen who put this whole event together.





SOPHIE

is a lovable 7-year old greyhound who never raced, giving her lots of time to contemplate the meaning of life.



Hello all my greyhound pals!

Since nobody needed my advice this time around, I thought I'd just share some of my experiences from this summer.

It was a busy time for my brothers and me; 'Mom' decided she wanted to move us to a new house. I didn't think there was anything wrong with our old house, but you know how humans can be when they get an idea in their heads. There's just no reasoning with them.

Anyhow, after a long search 'Mom' finally found us the perfect house with a nice big yard. Even though I liked our old house, it's lots of fun having a yard where we can run full speed. My brothers and I have races just about every day! My little brother usually wins but he has the advantage of youth. I'm pretty fast too, and even my big brother moves pretty quick for an old guy.



The only thing I don't like about the new house is that 'Mom' is making me stay in a crate sometimes. So I peed on the floor once or twice, is that any reason to take away my freedom? I tried to tell her I'm a big girl and much too grown up for a crate but she's not listening. I really don't know why she's making a fuss, I heard her say she wants to get new carpet anyway.

Other than that indignity, our move has been pretty fun. We were a little bit scared the first day in a strange place, but mom was patient with us and gave us lots of treats. Now we march around like we own the place. Which we do of course, we just let 'Mom' pay for everything so she feels important!



Sophie

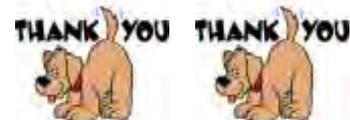
Remembering Those Hounds that have recently crossed the Rainbow Bridge....

Kal Phoebe, loved by the Phoebe family



A special thank you to those that have made donations or sponsored a greyhound since our last newsletter was published ~

Adel & Jeff Knapp
Diane & Paul Passantino
Darlene & Matt Callihan





CONFERENCE PLANNING UPDATES!

Beginning with this issue, TRG will continue to update everyone on our planning as hosts for the 2014 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference to be held June 20-22, 2014 at the Sheraton Inn, Station Square, Pittsburgh.

Registration for the conference will begin soon. In the meantime, you are able to make your hotel reservations now. TRG has a block of rooms available for a special rate if you use the link for hotel registration on our 2014 NAGAC facebook page, as well as on our website www.gpatrg.org.

Confirmed vendors for this event include Greytwear (clothing), Greylove (magnets, decals, stationary, t-shirts) Shannon O'Reilly (handcrafted jewelry), Paper Mache Whimsy (greyhound figurines), Steve Smith artworks (paintings of greyhounds, etc), TRG and others.

We will be announcing our speaker list in the fall.... be sure to keep checking our website and facebook page for updates. You won't want to miss this event!

2013 ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE

In August, I attended the Pennsylvania Bar Institute 2013 Animal Law Conference, which was held in the Heinz 57 Center (formerly the Gimbel's Department Store) in Pittsburgh.

This year, our two greyhounds, Rosie and Rummy, actually attended too. It was quite an adventure taking two large dogs into Pittsburgh and walking on the streets during the morning rush hour. We received quite a few stares and comments (all positive of course). The hounds had to navigate a revolving door (we didn't see the side entrance with a ramp), pass through security and get a special badge, and then ride the elevator to the seventh floor. Rummy kept staring at the 'other hound' he could see in the mirrored walls of the elevator.

The conference serves as continuing education for attorneys and was also attended by other rescue group officers, etc. As an exhibitor, we were in another room next to the two classrooms, with approximately 10 other rescue/animal advocacy groups. Two other canines were in attendance also. The organizer said he put us right next to the door, since he knew greyhounds were quiet – true to form, Rosie and Rummy slept most of the day (we were there for ~7 hours) but also enjoyed getting petted by anyone who came into the room.

I attended two presentations, one on Animals and Prison Programs and the other on Grant Writing; the dogs went with me too! We had a table set up and lots of literature on greyhound adoption available.

Rummy commented on the way home "It wasn't so bad, spending a whole day with a roomful of attorneys....."



~Louise Evans

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2013 will be fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds!

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