

Couch Potato Press!

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Beware of Ticks!

An educated greyhound owner is the single most critical factor in insuring the long-term health of these beautiful canine athletes and friends. This article addresses four of the most serious diseases spread by ticks: Canine Ehrlichiosis, Canine Babesiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Lyme disease.

Some of the symptoms are not uncommon in dogs but if they continue over a long period of time or if no cause can be easily determined, diseases mentioned in this article should be considered. General symptoms that have been attributed to the 4 diseases mentioned include:

High fever, depression or lethargy, anorexia, anemia, diarrhea or constipation, loss of appetite or loss of body weight, vomiting, nose bleeds, skin hemorrhage or any other unusual bleeding, swollen legs or lymph nodes, nervous system disorders such as stiff gait, head tilt, seizures or twitching, pale gums and/or inner eye membranes. Additionally, during its career your greyhound may have traveled extensively, especially in western, southwestern or eastern region of the U.S., or traveled in regions where ticks are prevalent, frequented kennels with high turnover/large number of dogs, experienced stressors such as poor diet, illness, relocation or racing, or been born to a known *Babesia canis*-infested dam.

If any of these symptoms or conditions apply to your dog, it is important that you know about recent findings of tick-borne diseases affecting greyhounds all over the U.S. The ProtaTek Reference Laboratory has performed serologic testing for tick-borne diseases on over 5000 greyhounds since March 1995. Findings revealed that some 40% of these animals are silent, asymptomatic carriers of at least one or more tick-borne disease agents.

Your dog may have been infected with, or exposed to, a number of tick-borne disease agents that may be uncommon in your area. In many cases, greyhounds may actually appear perfectly healthy, with virtually no symptoms of disease, but be in a **carrier state** and potentially exposing other dogs, including their housemates.

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6th Annual Gala Date Set !

It's coming up on that time of year again, the time when all greyhound enthusiasts in Wisconsin start breathing faster, and their blood starts pumping, excitement rises- that's right, it's time to announce the 6th Annual GPA-Wisconsin Fundraiser and Picnic: "The Gala Greyhound Gathering-Millennium Edition"! Please mark your calendars and save the date-- **Saturday, September 30, 2000, from 10am to 4pm** will be another great day of Greyhound fellowship, socializing, good things to eat, great hound goodies to buy, our famous raffle and auctions, and much more.

"The Gala is our only major fundraiser for each year's operations, and we're relying heavily on our adopters and friends to make this year's Millennium Gala a success", explains Ellen Schneiderman, GPA Wisconsin Board Member. Ellen also adds, "We really try to make the event bigger and better each year. The Wisconsin event is quite a large event in the Greyhound world. We get vendors and visitors from throughout the upper Midwest. We at GPA-Wisconsin put a lot of effort into the Gala not only for fundraising purposes, but also to make it a better event for our adopters, friends and the Greyhounds themselves. It's a great way to renew friendships, make new ones, and enjoy a day with fellow Greyhound enthusiasts".

This year, in order to better accommodate our larger crowd and expanded activities, GPA-Wisconsin is holding the Gala at a different location, the Waukesha County Expo Center. This allows us not only a bigger facility, but one more centrally located for both our Madison and Milwaukee area adopters.

Expect another Gala update in next quarter's Couch Potato Press. Additional, up-to-date information can be found at the GPA-Wisconsin website Gala page at www.gpawisconsin.org/gala2000.html