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GPA-WISCONSIN



Running Strong

The Couch Potato Press
March 2011
A quarterly publication of
Greyhound Pets of America - Wisconsin
P.O. Box 2115 • Madison, WI 53701
Voicemail: 414.299-9473 • www.gpawisconsin.org

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Couch Potato Press
is a quarterly publication of Greyhound Pets of America-Wisconsin, a non-profit organization dedicated to placing ex-racing greyhounds in loving homes as pets. Please direct any correspondence, address changes or donations to:
GPA-Wisconsin, Post Office Box 2115, Madison, WI 53701-2115 or visit our website at www.gpawisconsin.org

Upcoming Events

Pins for Paws Bowling Fundraiser
March 27, 2011
Towne & Country Lanes
Burlington, WI
Visit our website for more details

Lake Walk For Cancer
Saturday, May 7, 2011
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Oconomowoc, WI
Registration information available on the Events Section of the website

Kenosha Harbor Walk
Saturday, June 11, 2011
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Meet in the parking lot on the corner of 54th St. & 6th Ave

Golfing for Greyhounds
Sunday August 28, 2011
8 a.m. Shotgun Start
Door Creek Golf Course,
Cottage Grove, WI
More information available on the Forum in the Events Section



Wheels

For more information on these events, please visit our website at www.gpawisconsin.org

Annual Madison Area Heartworm Clinic

Date: April 16, 2011
Time: 1 to 4 pm
Where: Healthy Pet Veterinary Clinic
1440 E Washington Ave
Madison, WI
Phone: 608-294-9494

Heartworm disease is a preventable illness. GPA-WI recommends that you have your pet tested for heartworm disease once a year in the spring, and that you use a monthly heartworm preventative as part of your dog's total health plan.

As a courtesy to GPA-WI adopters, Healthy Pet Veterinary Clinic will host their annual heartworm clinic.

Walk-ins only, please. You do not need to be a regular patient to participate. This visit should not replace an annual visit to your regular veterinarian for a full health check-up. Re-vaccination is also being offered but please remember to bring your pet's vaccine history for the veterinarians to review.

Services being offered include:

- Heartworm 4DX Test (\$30)
- Rabies, Distemper Combination and Bordetella Vaccines (\$15)
- Lymes Vaccine (\$20)
- Canine Influenza (\$18)

Heartgard, Interceptor, Tri-Heart, Frontline, and other products will be offered for sale. Please check with the clinic for pricing.

Greyhounds and IBD

In the past few years, a number of GPA-WI greyhounds have been diagnosed or treated for IBD.

What is IBD? Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) is a chronic inflammation of the GI tract which, over time, thickens the walls of the intestines and interferes with absorption and the ability to move food normally through the system (motility). With chronic inflammation, the system speeds up and normal absorption of water from food is disrupted, resulting in diarrhea. Vomiting, mucous or blood in the stool can also be signs of IBD.

IBD should not be confused with

IBS (Irritable Bowel Syndrome) which is stress related but can also cause diarrhea. Treatment for IBS is to reduce anxiety and stress levels. The GI tract in a dog with IBS is normal and shows no signs of physical change, whereas IBD is an actual physical condition where the lining of the intestines are infiltrated with inflammatory cells.

What are the symptoms of IBD? Chronic diarrhea, vomiting, mucous or blood in the stool (more than just occasionally) are common indications, but not all dogs will have all of these symptoms. Weight loss can also be a symptom, or if the condition is advanced or severe, fluid retention may also occur.

(Continued on Page Two)

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GPA-Wisconsin
Post Office Box 2115
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Ask Kyra...

Dear Kyra,

What is WRONG with my humans? They are going nuts! They are removing all my bits of fur from corners and crevices...I even saw one moving dusts from the top of a bookshelf?! She called it cleaning springs or springs cleaning?? What is this about and is there a way to let them know I want some springs cleaning too? I mean, I am going to be getting my new coat soon and I'll just put more fur down unless they brush me with my Zoom Groom. Any help you can give me is appreciated.

Thanks,

Clean Confused Canine

Dear Confused,

I am so glad you wrote. This is a human ritual called Spring Cleaning where humans go through the cave and make everything clean and neat. This is an excellent time for you to gently guide your human to the areas where YOU need attention.

You're right, with warmer temps you will be dropping your heavy winter coat and growing a sleek shiny summer coat. Getting your human to brush you with a nice comb (no metal teeth—they can tear or hurt your thin skin) can greatly reduce your shedding. Even a few strokes a day will help keep your fur off the floor and get you looking shiny and feeling soft. It's a great time to look at those toenails too—I know you hate it, but trim them up!

Its also time to get your human to notice how gross your yard has

become. I mean, they are cleaning dusts and fur, but as the snow has melted, all your favorite potty areas are now covered in melting poopsicles--Eww! If your human doesn't clean the yard soon then try pottying in the house. That will surely help them understand how gross it is outside. You don't want to walk through all that potty mess and your human won't want you to track that inside! Even worse, you could get WORMS from that old poo on your paws! Yuck! I suggest lots of pacing and pottying in unusual areas to alert your human to the mess.

Hopefully you get your spring cleaning too!

-Kyra

If you have a question for Kyra, please send your letter to: Kyra Clouse, 525 August Hills Drive, LaCrescent, MN 55947 or email to: AskKyra@gmail.com

(IBD from Page One)

How is IBD diagnosed?

Your veterinarian may first check for parasites or bacteria overload if your greyhound has some of the symptoms mentioned above. If these come back negative, your vet may suggest abdominal xrays or an ultrasound to get a preliminary indication of what's going on, and ensure that there are no other masses or abnormalities causing the problem. The only way to be certain of an IBD diagnosis is to have a biopsy taken of the intestinal wall. This can be done surgically, or via endoscopy, however, as with all surgical procedures, there are risks involved. This is especially true if your hound has a low albumin level, which can inhibit the healing process. If your greyhound has low albumin, you may want to ask your veterinarian about complications of surgery before you proceed.

What causes IBD?

The cause of IBD is not well understood, however the basic theory is that something causes a chronic stimulus of inflammation. It may be an allergy from a food protein, or the continuing presence of a parasite, or there may be an underlying problem with the immune system. Most often, the exact cause cannot be pinpointed.

What is the treatment for IBD?

In most cases, the initial treatment for IBD is a course of steroid therapy to immediately reduce inflammation in the intestinal tract. Once the condition has improved or stabilized, it may be possible to wean the dog off steroids, depending on the severity of the condition. Some dogs may need to stay on steroids long term. Prescription diets or dietary changes to unique proteins and low allergenic foods are needed to maintain a stable environment in the GI tract. Most often, a dog will need to remain on a restricted diet for the rest of its

life. Consulting a canine nutritionist may be an option some owners want to consider. Even with all these adjustments and care, IBD dogs may have an occasional set back or bout of diarrhea. Its important to realize there are many combinations of treatments and diets. There is no one treatment or diet that suits all hounds with IBD. Work with your veterinarian or health professional to come up with the combination that's best for you and your greyhound.

IBD is a very serious condition. Without treatment, it can be life threatening. If you suspect your hound may have IBD, or has chronic intestinal problems which include diarrhea and vomiting, or you notice fluid retention in the abdomen or feet, seek professional help. Get a second opinion, preferably from a GI specialist. With proper treatment and management, a greyhound diagnosed with IBD can live a relatively normal, happy life. 



Nuts & Bolts

President's Intro

Hello fellow Greyhound adopters! My name is John Henninger and I am the new GPA-WI President. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself, let you know who I am and how to find me with your questions, concerns, or suggestions.

My wife, Stacey, and I adopted our first greyhound, Erin, a few years ago. Ironically, my wife had to talk me into adopting our first dog, but now I wish I had listened to her sooner. It didn't take long, just a few months, until we adopted our second hound Walker and heard about all the volunteer opportunities in GPA-WI. The next thing you know, I was volunteering for everything. I enjoyed all of my work, but really found my niche as kennel manager. I felt I had finally found my true passion and looked forward to every trip there. As I continued working at the kennel I became more and more involved, finding myself elected to the Board of Directors and when Ellen

Paulus retired, being nominated to lead this amazing group.

It is truly an honor to represent GPA-WI and this "greyt" breed of dog. I eat, breathe and sleep greyhounds and tell anybody who will listen about my hounds. I can't imagine my life without them. I am excited to work with all the amazing volunteers that are the heart of GPA-WI. I hope to be able to build on the success of the group and make it even better. I look forward to meeting you all in the future. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any problems, ask questions, or to share your suggestions. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

John Henninger

JCHenninger@gmail.com

Clydester on the GPA - WI Forum

New Board Member

GPA-Wisconsin would like to welcome Kate Block as the newest Board Member! Kate is also our cat friendly Foster Home Coordinator! Welcome Aboard!

Foster Home Coordinators

In addition to Kate, our non-cat friendly Foster Home Coordinator is Jessica Burch. If you are interested in becoming a foster home, or would like to learn more about what is involved, please go to the home page of the website and look under the link "How You Can Help" for more information. Thanks to Kate and Jessica for handling this very important part of the GPA-WI process!

Newsletter Designer/Editor

If you have design or page layout experience, or would like to help with publishing the Couch Potato Press, we are looking for you! For more information please contact pauprint@sbcglobal.net



Couch Potatoes With New Homes December 2010 - March 2011

Bella (Donna) Ambuehl
Smoke Hokaj
Daisy Kanter
Betty Nickel
Stormy Meyer
Prezley Wroblewski
Royal Huber
Lacy Ford
Charlie (Ty) Joslyn
Jesse Smars

Pass the Dip! These families have chipped!

Lux (Jennay) Amman
Thunder Bunn
Banji Hanson
Dora Hayes
Buck Holthaus
Wheels Johnson
DC Kanter
Harmony Nordby
Bart (Boo) Olson
Mojo Schmoller
Major Tom (Guinness) Whalen

Please let us know if we have somehow missed the name of a greyhound who should appear in this section.

In Memory

December 2010 - March 2011

These beloved greyhounds have recently passed over. We'd like to honor them by publishing their names in our newsletter. Please let us know if there is a hound who should be remembered. We hope the list is always short. We encourage friends and relatives to consider a donation to GPA or the Blue Fund in their hound's memory. Memorials are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged with a note to the family.

Angel Allen	Sadie Pulizzano
Nika Amman	Marshal Stuntebeck
Mel Genzel	Ricardo Stuntebeck
Patty Gregory	Tina Trimburger
Rainey Jones	Mr. Magoo Van Landuyt
Ernie Loniello	Angel Ward
Misty Parker-Krzyczynski	Tiger Zientara