

# Greyhound Chatter

## IT'S GREYFEST TIME !

GPA-Atlanta / Southeastern Greyhound Adoption will hold its annual GreyFest celebration September 21<sup>st</sup> at SummerWind Farm in Newnan, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The fall gathering will feature all the traditional fun, games, and educational activities, including Silly Superlatives, straight racing, raffles, a nail trimming clinic, silent auction, all-day romps and, as always, a wonderful buffet lunch.

The SEGA Boutique will be open for business with goodies for hounds and humans alike. Jennifer Lawson will give a demonstration on feeding your Greyhound the Bones and Raw Food diet (yes, it's actually called the "BARF" diet !).

The 100 yard "Dash for Cash" straight racing competition will be held in the afternoon, and judging by some of the challenges that have been issued on the Southeastern Greyhounds discussion list, it should be an interesting and exciting event. The Greyhounds will be divided into two divisions -- Open (for 6 and under) and Seniors (for 7 and over) and will be run in pairs. Each winning hound from each pair will go on to the next bracket in a single elimination manner until there is a winner in each division. The entry fee will be \$5 each. Half the proceeds will go to the adoption kennel fund, and the other half will be split between the two division winners. So, trim those nails and get those hounds in shape !

What to bring ? Folding chairs, a drinking bowl for your hounds (there will be plenty of drinking and cool-down water available), a crate or ex-pen for "relaxation space" and a jacket or raincoat if the weather looks "iffy." GreyFest will be held rain or shine !

### *Here are directions to SummerWind Farm:*

Take I-85 South to Exit 51 (Hwy. 154 / McCollum-Sharpsburg Rd.). Turn right and go .5 mile to a dead-end at Hwy. 29. Turn left on Hwy. 29 and go 5.3 miles. Right after you pass the Newnan Country Club on the right, turn right on Old Atlanta Hwy. Go .3 mile to the 4-way stop. Turn right on Country Club Rd. and go .5 mile. The farm is on the left -- look for the stone columns and the wrought iron gate. The address is 364 Country Club Rd.

More information will be posted on the website [www.greyhoundadoption.org](http://www.greyhoundadoption.org)

*We hope to see you there !*

**Southeastern Greyhound Club**

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Visit our website:

[www.greyhoundadoption.org](http://www.greyhoundadoption.org)



## View from the Couch: The Newspaper Poem

By *Mustbe "Tanner" Fiftyways*



Bored  
 Newspaper!  
 Rip and twirl  
 Rip and spin  
 Rip and whirl  
 Bits flutter  
 Bits flutter  
 Tired, panting

Wonder how to get a snack.

## Trooper's Party for the Strays

By *Betty Jean Jordan*

Trooper the greyhound has become fairly well known here in Jasper County, Georgia. For the last couple of years, he has been the key player in a program called Greyhounds and Grey Hairs. Once a month he has accompanied my church youth group to our local nursing home, The Retreat. Both young and old really seem to enjoy Trooper. The youth clamor over who gets to hold his leash, and many of the residents open up more than they might otherwise. During one visit, one man playfully asked, "Is he a drug dog?" and I quipped, "Why – are you nervous?" Every time we visit, one woman fondly recalls her daddy's bird dogs lying by the fire when she was a girl.

Trooper's birthday happens to be in May, which of course I know from the tattoo inside of

his ear. This year he turned 10. Furthermore, I had volunteered to help plan an end-of-school-year event for the youth group in May. What better way to celebrate than to invite all of the youth to Trooper's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday party?

Everyone gathered on a sunny Sunday afternoon. We started with some recreation, which included several activities related to the special occasion. First was the Four-Legged Race, a relay in which participants had to crawl on all fours. Next, we had the Ring Around the Collar Toss. It was kind of like a modified form of horseshoes; participants tried to toss a dog collar around a stake in the ground. After that came the Dog Biscuit Relay. Teams got in a line on all fours, each person holding a clothespin in his mouth. They passed a dog biscuit

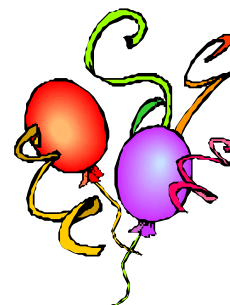
down the line from clothespin to clothespin, and of course they couldn't use their hands. (Incidentally, some of the kids seemed more interested in sampling the dog biscuits than in passing them.) The grand finale was Trooper's Super Duper Pooper Scooper Relay. Each person had to scoop up a tennis ball with a new, clean pooper scooper and carry it down and back on the relay course.

The vigorous activity created some real chowhounds by mealtime. Among the offerings were hotdogs and Peanut Butter Paw Print Cake, a peanut butter cake made with one round layer and four cupcakes to look like a paw print. Trooper definitely got more treats than I normally would allow, but then again, you only have a 10<sup>th</sup> birthday party once.

The highlight of the

day, however, was all of the gifts that the youth brought. They weren't for Trooper, though. I had asked everyone to bring items for the newly formed Jasper County Humane Society. We live in a rural county, and far too many strays need good homes. With all of the bowls, brushes, collars, leashes, etc. that the kids brought, maybe life will be a little easier for a few animals.

If you're looking for a fun way to celebrate an event, maybe you can use a few of these ideas. Better yet, why not turn it into a benefit for some greyhounds in your area?



## Here Comes Rusty

*The smartest and fastest rabbit around*

**Dear Rusty** – Can you explain my Grey's ear tattoos?

Dear Grey Parent – Your Grey has a tattoo in each ear. The right ear identifies your Grey's age. The first two numbers are the birth month. The number just before the letter is the year. The letter represents the order of the litter that the dogs were tattooed. For instance: 118C means

your Grey was born in November of 1998 and he was the third dog in the litter to be tattooed.

The tattoo in the left ear is the unique registration ID for your Grey's litter. Every dog in the litter has the same number in their left ear. This number was provided by the National Greyhound Association (NGA).

Your Grey's unique identification is the com-

ination of the left ear litter registration number and the right ear birth number with the letter indicating which dog in the litter he was.

**Dear Rusty** – Does that mean my Grey was the third born in the litter?

Dear Grey Parent – You humans are so funny. Rabbits don't care what order we are born in. Why do you humans care? No it doesn't mean that. Some farms use a standard order such as tattooing their favorite first, but for many farms the one that gets caught first gets tattooed first.

Send your questions to Rusty at [rustytherabbit@yahoo.com](mailto:rustytherabbit@yahoo.com)

## For My Noble Mudder

*By Julie Rask*



"Helen, Mudder bit me today!" I said excitedly. "Wonderful!" was the instant reply. Sounds like a strange conversation to be having with a behaviorist doesn't it? Not when the dog was Mudder. It was a privilege and an honor to be nipped by Mudder. Because you see, if Mudder nipped you, Mudder accepted you. That day was the first day that I knew that Mudder was no longer afraid of me. That was the day that I knew My Noble Mudder truly loved me.

Mudder came to the rescue kennel as a very shy dog. He came with his trainer who had just been hired to work at the kennel. The trainer was hired for

his expert knowledge of greyhounds. And he was knowledgeable. He knew what they should eat; knew how they should move; knew how to make them run. But what no one knew was how much he despised Mudder. You see, Mudder was an extremely shy dog. Mudder didn't like to race. Mudder didn't race well. And so, in the eyes of his trainer, Mudder was completely useless. It didn't take long before Mudder went from being an extremely shy dog to a terrified dog. It didn't take long until Mudder had a sign on his kennel, "UNADOPTABLE".

Enter Helen Sutton. Helen is to dogs what Father Flanagan was to boys. Fr Flanagan believed there is no such thing as a bad boy. Helen believes there is no such thing as an unadoptable greyhound. And so Helen took Mudder home. And for two years, Mudder lived in Helen's closet. And while Mudder was living in Helen's closet, Helen was learning. She was taking classes and seminars. She was reading and studying. Helen was adapting techniques meant for use on people and horses for Mudder. She was using alternative training methods and herbal remedies. And after two years, Helen was able to get Mudder to come out of the closet on his own. And after another year of working with him, the 'Unadoptable' dog was ready to be adopted. He needed a special home, but he was ready to fly. And there I was!

*continued on page 4*



## For My Noble Mudder continued.....

I knew he was a special dog. I just didn't know how special. From the day he arrived at my house, Mudder began to teach me. He taught me dog language. He taught me calming signals. He taught me wisdom. But most of all he taught me patience. And on the day he died, in the way he died, Mudder taught me that he loved me unconditionally and completely.

When Mudder first came to me he was afraid of everything and everyone. If the ceiling fan was on, Mudder wouldn't come into the house. If anyone came to visit, Mudder wouldn't come into the house. If there were storms or loud noises, Mudder wouldn't come out of the closet. Mudder spent a lot of time in closets and in the yard. I worked with Mudder for four years. I took him to obedience classes. I took him to seminars. I took him to pet stores and dog shows. A couple of times I even took him to work. And slowly but surely, Mudder grew in confidence. And then one Sunday afternoon, Mudder came with me to a friend's family reunion. He walked past total strangers, into a strange house and got up on the couch. He allowed strangers to pet him and talk to him. And when it was time to go, he walked right past all those people and out the door. He was skittish, but he did it.

On the Tuesday after the reunion, I came home from work, and Mudder was gone. He had died sometime during the day. There was no real warning, no real signs. He was just gone. Mudder had come full circle. And so it was time for him to go. But even in his leaving he taught me something. My neighbor and I took Mudder to the vet early Wednesday morning and left him there. When we got home, in the back of the car, there on the pad where his head had lain, written in blood, was the word LOVE.

Into this world there come special souls; Ancient souls who come to touch another. Such a soul are you, My Noble Mudder. You taught me patience, love and courage. So fly, fly my little one. For I know that when it is my turn to cross over you will be there for me; waiting with a smile on your face and a song in your heart, and a little nip on the derriere. I love you Mudder.



### To Those Who Await Us

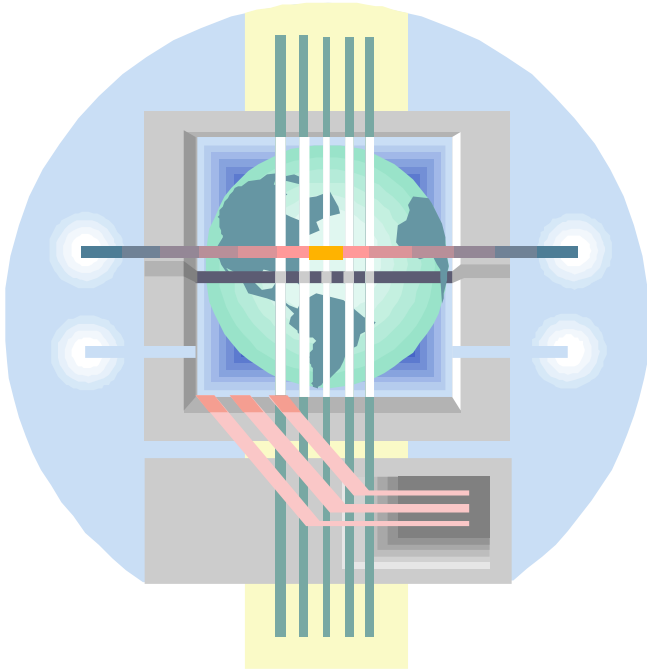
*Author Unknown*



***Good-bye my precious friend.....  
It is only for a while.....  
The special gift of love you gave  
will always make me smile.....  
  
There were so many times....  
You caught me by surprise....  
I never knew how much I'd miss  
The love in your eyes.....  
Thank you my precious friend.....  
For the chance to know this pain....  
It will pass for I know we will meet again....  
Though I may be old when you see me.....  
The years will peel away...  
My voice shall rise in joy  
As you run to me as I call out your name.....***

## “The List”

*By Rusty the Rabbit*



So you keep hearing people talk about “the list”, but you’re not really sure what it is or how to use it. Let’s see if it is something for you.

“The list” is part of an automated website and email address that organizes people by shared interest topics. Think of it as a “discussion list” where people ask questions, post stories, debate issues, and get valuable information.

SEGA runs their “list” through Yahoo Groups. All you need is Internet access, a web browser and an email account. There is no fee. It is available to all members of SEGC, volunteers of GPA-Atlanta/SEGA, and adopters from SEGA.

“The list” was created to better inform its members of the day-to-day operations of SEGA and SEGC and to share Greyhound related information to its members. Being more informed, and sharing information, will help us all to become better Greyhound owners.

Once you join, you will receive dozens of emails every day on dozens of different topics about Greyhounds. You don’t have to read them unless you want to. Savvy list readers learn to judge a discussion’s value both by its subject and

its writer. They only read and respond to the emails that interest them.

After learning the rules of the road, most participants post their own comments or questions. You can either start a new discussion topic or you can respond to an existing discussion.

Lots of people post questions about Greyhound behavior, health, medical, or problems. Your post provides you access to over 150 other Greyhound owners who can provide insight and experiences to help you out. These are extremely valuable discussions for new and old Greyhound owners alike.

As with all email discussion groups, sometimes the comments or debates can get a little personal. Discussions and debates can be healthy, but personal criticisms should be sent and responded to in private emails. If you take issue with something someone has said, reply privately to that person. Improper posts broadcast to the entire group can quickly tarnish a reputation.

Another no-no is using the list as your private address book. If you want to email individuals instead of the entire group, email them privately. Do not clog up the list with your personal emails just because it is easier to click send to everyone than to type out the address of the one or two people your message is intended for.

To join “the list”, simply go to [www.greyhoundadoption.org](http://www.greyhoundadoption.org). Follow the links to either SEGA Atlanta or SEGA Tallahassee. At the bottom of the page, click on “Discussion Group”. That will take you to the SEGA list at Yahoo Groups. Click “Join this Group”. If you are not already a member of Yahoo Groups, you will need to sign up and create a Yahoo ID. Just follow the links. It only takes a few minutes.

Once you become a seasoned user of the SEGA list, you may want to expand out a little further and join the BIG LIST at [www.greyhoundlist.org](http://www.greyhoundlist.org). This is a national list with over 2700 participants, so your daily email log will grow from dozens to hundreds of emails. Obviously it can get a little overwhelming, but you can reduce the impact by signing up for the “digest”. This will bundle the emails together so you get them all at once. You still get them all, but the impact on your email box is far less taxing.

Good luck.



*Southeastern Greyhound Club*

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