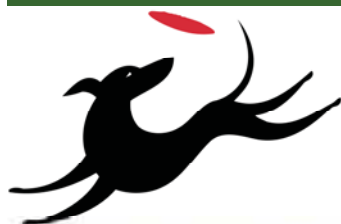


April 2007



GREYHOUNDS AS PETS

GREYHOUNDS AS PETS

Happening Hounds

RSPCA Million Paws Walk

After last year's extraordinary effort to take out the "Biggest Corporate Team" award, start limbering up to defend our title this year!



2006 GAP Team

This means that GAP team members will have access to the Corporate Marquee as a place to meet on the day including the complimentary refreshments that RSPCA provide on the day. Corporate team members also get VIP Parking and we will be able to have our GAP flags flying to obtain further exposure as well.

Given that our team was so large last year I will also try to get permission to have our shade canopy erected next to our flags so that we can have somewhere to gather.

EVENT DETAILS

Sunday 20th May
Sir James Mitchell Park, South Perth
8am - 1pm
Walk starts at 10am

GAP WILL PAY ENTRY FEE

Given the success of last year, the Greyhounds WA CEO, David Simonette, has once again agreed to pay the entry fee for anyone pre-registering as part of the GAP team.

We have enclosed a registration form and would ask you to fill in the details and return it to GAP by Monday 14th May. Each team member must complete a separate Team Member Registration Form (you can photocopy as many times as you like).

Return it to GAP by -

Post :
PO Box 6 Cannington WA 6987
or
Fax :
9458 5695.



GAP can only cover the costs for people pre-registering with us (NOT registering on the day) and we will need to have your forms by 14th May to allow us time to forward the details and money to the RSPCA.

DEFEND the TITLE
Aim to beat
104 people &
50 Greyhounds

PLEASE BRING MUZZLES

Please remember to bring your muzzles with you - given that we want the support of the Rangers and RSPCA in our bigger quest to eventually have the muzzled removed it is essential that we have them at the ready to wear if we are requested to do so.

I will be away between 21st April and 12th May. If you have any queries please send an email if you can or include a note with your registration form and I'll try to get back to you as soon as I can when I return from leave.

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VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

To manage the GAP merchandise at the Million Paws Walk. You will still be able to walk but will just look after sale of coats and collars while people are gathering at the beginning and end of the walk.

Call Kerry on 0408 883 669 to register your interest.

GAP Picnic - a Greyt Success

The GAP Picnic was a spectacular event! What a turnout, over 100 people and more than 50 greyhounds and not a grumpy word between them all.

The fancy dress was exceptionally entertaining with all participants illustrating just how creative they are - the pictures tell a thousand words!

The video done for the Greyhound of the year was made up of excellent footage and it was well received on the night, hopefully having a strong impact on our new Minister Ljiljianna Ravlich!

Well done to everyone who attended, enjoyed the BBQ and the company and we'll look forward to more in the future!



The Gang



Squaw



Billy



Jesse



Miss Polly



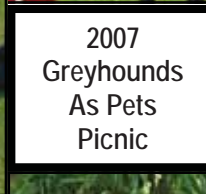
Charlie & Duey
Now Daisy



Cisco



Opal



Charlotte



Mandy & Zac



Bubbles now
Cayenne



Macca

2007
Greyhounds
As Pets
Picnic

Hoppy Heather is HAPPY
Thanks to everyone who showed their interest in Heather. She now has a wonderful home with Dorothy and Neil, she's on the mend and it is great to see a happy ending!

Seniors - Delightful Dotty

This little girl has a coat that is both the shiniest white and most gleaming black at the same time and as soft as silk. She is a sprightly 8 year old but this needs to be explained to her as she is convinced she's no more than 4! Her foster carer says she hasn't fostered a dog that could possibly be happier in the mornings, when the lead comes out and when she gets home from work.



Dotty is terrific with other dogs and also great with kids. She has been in foster care with two other dogs and has also enjoyed many a "play date" with her other canine friends.

She's quite a devoted companion and just needs a home to prove it!

Muzzles...

And still there's more...

With the recent departure of John Bowler from office, we now have a new Minister.

Ljiljianna Ravlich is now the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development (LGRD) and Minister for Racing Gaming and Liquor. These are the two Ministerial portfolios that affect us with

the first carrying the Dog Act and the second looking after Greyhound Racing.

With both portfolios being covered by one Minister we can hope that she will have a more rounded understanding of the scope of the welfare issue surrounding racing greyhounds and see the benefit of altering the Dog Act to assist us in changing perceptions.

Once again, while we are working out how to approach the new Minister and present the best picture to her, we still need to keep doing the right thing, wear the muzzles in public and keep your fingers crossed.

We'll keep you posted.

GAP Dog-Sitting Registry

Going away? Why don't you join the GAP Dog Sitting Registry?

I am often asked if I know if anyone who could look after someone's dog while they're going away. In the past I have recommended a few different Kennels that I know are terrific with greyhounds and do a good deal for the GAP dogs. However I know that some people still prefer the idea of their dog staying in a home environment.

As a result of some discussions with different people Christine Higgins (owned by Zac) has agreed to manage a list of people who might be prepared to do occasional "Dog-Sitting" duties.

Essentially this is not a service run by GAP, rather something that has been set up to offer assistance for people within

the wider GAP family as an alternative to kennels.

It would involve putting your name on a list to register that you would be happy to do occasional dog sitting.

The concept is that by being part of the larger GAP family, we should be able to utilize our contacts to help each other out. By registering with this list to do occasional dog-sitting you may also find someone who is willing to dog-sit your own dog next time you're away. What goes around comes around!

Chris will maintain a list of families and contact details that can be forwarded to people looking for dog-sitting so that they can contact the potential dog-sitters. That way you can look for someone you may have met at a picnic or GAP event, or someone living close to you and make

sure the dogs needing the sitting will fit in with kids and other pets. These details should then be worked out between the dog-sitters and the people with the dog.

The details of who supplies food, any costs and / or charges can be left up to the individuals involved to discuss.

If you're interested in placing your name on the registry please contact Christine on 0419 150 748 or email her at crazy_marnie@hotmail.com



Play Group

Are you always looking for a chance to safely let your greyhound have a great off-lead run? Come along to play group.

Starting in June on the first Sunday of every month, a play group will be held at 2pm at the Southern River Greyhound Training Track. Thanks to the Southern River Training Track and Michelle's Anything Greyhound, GAP have been given permission to hold a playgroup.

The track is on Passmore Street Southern River and is located along the boundary fence of the German Shepherd Association grounds.

To play costs \$4 per Greyhound (Foster dogs Free). After costs, the profits will go to GAP. On each run, 4 greyhounds will be allowed in the track, all dogs MUST be muzzled while running and dogs may run as many times as they want on the day.



Perth Cup

The biggest race meeting on WA's Greyhound Racing Calendar is the SKY Channel Perth Cup.

It will be held on Saturday 28th April at Greyhounds WA Cannington attracting a crowd of about 5000 people.

In another way to make sure people see the "post-racing possibilities" of Greyhounds, at this year's Perth Cup the gates will be manned by some GAP Greyhounds so that the people attending the races can have a pat and cuddle on their way into the venue.

Hounds in Happy Homes - Sabrina



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NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Distributing the newsletter via email is a good thing for Greyhounds As Pets and the environment!

It keeps our postage costs down, uses less paper and is a quicker method of distribution.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email let us know.

Email
kvernon@greyhoundswa.com.au

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Having grown up with kelpies my whole life I was missing having a canine companion after leaving home because I didn't think I could work full time and own a dog. Kelpies are active all day and need so much attention and I had assumed that most bigger dogs would be the same.

I had never thought about greyhounds until I saw a special on Burke's Backyard and a few of the common myths about greyhounds were cleared up for me: they didn't need lots of exercise, they didn't need a large backyard and they didn't have any major health problems. Ever since the program I thought more and more about greyhounds, but still didn't think I would have the time for any kind of dog.

In 2005 we went to the Royal Show for the first time in years and saw the GAP display and both Stephen and I fell in love with the greyhounds. Stephen said that it's like they know they're the fastest dogs so they just lay around with an attitude of "Yea, I could beat you if I wanted". We just loved the way they were so relaxed and laid back. As Stephen said, "They are the most cat-like dog you could get. They stretch like a cat and lay about all day long". However, I still wasn't sure if I would have time for a dog, even a greyhound.

It kept playing on my mind and finally in March 2006 Stephen asked what I wanted for my birthday and I made the decision, I wanted a greyhound. We went and looked at a few greyhounds and it was the last dog we met that I just fell in love with. Stephen had no say in the matter; I had made my decision and it was Sabrina.



Sabrina was in a foster home with another greyhound and they played really well together so I felt bad about taking her away from her friend Phoebe, but now Sabrina has made lots of new friends at the park so I don't feel bad about it anymore. She is the sweetest girl although she can be very timid and scared of new things (and a bit blonde at times). It took us a full day to get her inside the house and even then she wouldn't move from her bed for the first few days, but now she owns the house (although she still likes to be close to mum and dad).



After ripping up her foam bed in an effort to get comfortable I thought she would prefer to snuggle into a beanbag. At first she wouldn't go near it at all and when I tried to put her on it she tensed up and went completely rigid. When I took her off the beanbag she ran to her old foam bed. I left the beanbag in the room and eventually she went over to it and put one paw in then walked away. She kept coming back and eventually after a few hours she sat down in it. After that there was no going back, it was way better than the foam.

Her first walk was also interesting. Every dog was so strange and exciting although she hid behind mum if they barked at her and wouldn't go near the group of dogs. I persisted and kept taking her to the groups and now she loves playing with the big groups of dogs and she has even learnt to chase and fetch the ball just from watching the other dogs, which amazed me. Everyone at the park that meets her falls in love with her and I am very glad that I made the decision to get her.

Since Sabrina we have fostered a few hounds and will foster more in the future. Now that I have Sabrina there is no going back, I'm hooked on greyhounds (it really didn't take much) and I would (and do) recommend them to anyone (and everyone).

Keita Shewan

