

December 2007



GREYHOUNDS AS PETS

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Happening Hounds

Jeff Schrull's Amazing Donation

Prominent racing greyhound owner Jeff Schrull has been a strong supporter of GAP over the years and we have placed a number of his dogs, but his latest generosity is nothing short of amazing.

Jeff contacted Greyhounds WA in the last week of November pledging a \$1,000 donation to GAP for any BACK TONIGHT victories during December.

BACK TONIGHT was one of the leading fan-cies in the Anniversary Cup series at Canning-ton December and although he didn't come through on the podium for that event, he was in the money on December 8. As a result so is GAP!!

Jeff is currently working in Geneva and has his pet greyhound and Golden Retriever with him.



GAP promptly sent an email to sincerely thank him for his kind and very generous offer.

As the funds were not at all expected we decided to use them for something that has been on our wish list for a while! We will purchase copies of "Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies".

Introducing Tammara...

GAP has recently received an incredible boost to productivity in the form of Tammara Olds!

With the start of the new financial year, (1 August for racing bodies as it coincides with the Horses Birthday!) Greyhounds WA increased their support of Greyhounds As Pets by funding a second permanent part time position.

Tammara has owned her greyhound Chase for just over 2 years, is a foster carer and has been a regular at GAP events and functions so you may recognize her. She has also had experience in Dog Training, not to mention her other skills, so in the short time she has been with GAP she has proved her worth ten fold!

For fear of making this article sound like a school report card, or worse still, an advert in the personal pages, I'll stop there. However I'm sure you'll find Tammara's energy and enthusiasm very infectious.



MERCHANDISE

Looking for any last minute Christmas presents? Consider the new GAP Merchandise.

Shirts \$25

Greyhounds make great pets
3/4 Red Raglan Sleeve

Polar Fleece Vests \$40

Black with contrast red collar
GAP Logo

Bags \$5

Red over shoulder
Greyhounds make great pets

Check out photos on the website - www.greyhoundsaspets.com.au Look under the GAP menu

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Fostering

GAP is always looking for Foster Carers and at this time of the year our resources are really stretched. If you've considered fostering, even if it is only for 1 dog to see what it is like, now would be a great time to give us a call!!!

Please call Tammara Olds for a chat to see if it right for you. 0411 152 686.

A Crowded House - Famous Greyhounds

Kerry's blog about our Crowded House Experience -

After being on holidays for a couple of weeks with no email access I hit Bangkok and decided to check out the state of my email account. Imagine my surprise when one of the first things I read was that Crowded House, on their New Zealand tour, had allowed a bunch of greyhounds to run on stage before the encore. Greyhounds As Pets in NZ had told all of the GAP groups in Australia, saying Crowded House were thrilled with the response and wanted to support GAP initiatives in Australia.

So the emails were flying around about how we could get in on the act. I was in the apartment in Bangkok doing a dance and singing and couldn't wait to get home to try and sort it out!

When I arrived home I was disappointed that I hadn't received any communication from Crowded House about it. So by Tuesday I sent them an email and said that Greyhounds As Pets in Perth would be thrilled to be involved and organize the same thing for their Supreme Court Gardens shows – Friday 16th and Saturday 17th November.

I heard back from them late Wednesday and by Thursday we were in Supreme Court checking out the stage.

The idea was Nick Seymour's (Bass player) and he had been concerned that the Perth venue was outdoors and so the noise would be too much for the dogs, and that was why they hadn't contacted us to start with. They were pleased to receive my email suggesting our involvement and after seeing the set-up I assured the producers that the noise was very unlikely to worry the dogs – we were back stage and about as far behind the stage and speakers as we could get!

Thursday afternoon we sent an email out to a few of the adopters that we felt had greyhounds who wouldn't mind that kind of atmosphere and whose owners might like the opportunity as well.



We had been asked to get about 10 dogs for each night and the idea was that the dogs would be off lead and released on one side of the stage to run across the stage and get caught on the other side. At the other

venues they had used a fluffy toy on a rope to drag across the stage to encourage the dogs out on to the stage. It sounded easy enough and had worked in NZ, Victoria, Queensland and SA. Despite that, Tammara and I were a bunch of nervous energy stressing about all of the "what ifs" that could go wrong! Given the timing of the concert, the lack of notice we had and the restrictions on the band about when they could make noise we were also not going to be able to have a rehearsal.

8.30pm Friday night and our little band of GAP dogs and people entered the Supreme Court Gardens back entry to be met by a security guard who didn't know anything about the dogs and was not going to let us in! He finally contacted the person we had been told to ask for and all was OK. We headed off to the back of the stage, to our "Dressing Room" area to wait.



Crowded House came on at 8.45pm and their show was great.

The staff assisting us were wonderful. We were allowed to have any food and drink we wanted, they supplied passes so we could go in and out to see the performance, and they all kept coming over to pat the dogs and kept thanking us for being there!

The time came for us to get ready and we had to carry almost all of the dogs up the stairs as they were steep and tall and metal and really not to the dogs' liking.

We took the leads off, the catchers went to their side of the stage and the releasers went to their side of the stage. The band left, the crowd roared and we moved into position.

I was crouched down next to a big amplifier when the word came to let the dogs go. They weren't real keen to start with, then "I'm Smokin" saw the toy on the rope and trotted off to see what it was. Most of the other dogs followed, turned around, came back and milled about on stage. Then the band came back on and the dogs were called to the other side.

It had worked!!

We collected the dogs behind the stage and carried them down the stairs breathing a great sigh of relief!

After Crowded House finished we went out to the crowd to hand out brochures before returning backstage where we were invited to have drinks with Bob Evans, Augie March and Crowded House.

I'll admit I was a bit embarrassed by the "adoring fan" persona and so wanted to just stand back and see how it all panned out but Nick Seymour approached us and was so enthusiastic in his thanks for us coming. I had to say to him that the opportunity for us was just wonderful as it was generating exposure that we wouldn't have been able to buy, speaking with a new audience and that the support of Crowded House gave us a big boost in credibility and "cool factor".

The guys were most concerned that all the dogs were OK, not stressed and that the noise hadn't been too much. Their genuine concern was really impressive, they were quite mesmerized by the dogs and when Oliver started howling at a passing ambulance everyone was thoroughly delighted!

Our "performance" on the second night went without incident and once again the response from Crowded House and the other bands was terrific.

We have received a few phone calls and emails already from people who were at the concert and are interested in adopting or getting more info. The State Manager from Advance (one of our GAP Sponsors) was there too and she emailed me on Sunday requesting photos for their internal newsletter!

In all honesty I was so impressed by their willingness to stop and talk with us, asking questions about the dogs and what we did, and even to instigate conversation with us in general. Everyone we dealt with was fantastic; so helpful, friendly and genuine.

The whole experience far surpassed anything I could have imagined - it was a bit surreal.



Neil Finn was holding Sabrina saying "She's just Magnificent!"



Crowded House and the Perth Greyhounds As Pets representatives

Perth Royal Show 2007 - Wrap up

For yet another year the show was a sensational success for GAP.

Having the same location saw a large number of people visit our Marquee commenting "We come to see the greyhounds every year!"

It is essential to thank those people who volunteered helped man the Marquee for their assistance and

professional attitude. This truly creates a strong impression on the many people who pass through and learn about our GAP message.

We have adopted **XX** dogs as a result of applications received at the show and haven't really slowed down yet!

We'll be back next year!



Royal Perth Bone Marrow Transplant Sponsor GAP

Another new initiative for GAP started in 2007 after a magnificent offer from Fay Lambert. Fay adopted the gorgeous Ned earlier in the year and rang GAP a few months later with a wonderful proposition.

Fay works on the ward at the Royal Perth Hospital Bone Marrow Transplant Unit and said that the patients are often unable to interact with their pets due to the serious and severe nature of their condition.

There is a pin up board where the patients and staff display photos of their pets. After adding photos of Ned to the board the whole concept of GAP generated a great deal of interest amongst the patients and staff.

Fay went on to explain that staff on

the ward often get together and donate their own money to support causes that they believe in. After learning about GAP they wanted to know what they could do to help.

As a result we have developed a Foster Dog Sponsorship program where GAP allocates a foster dog to RPH BMT Ward, complete with a certificate and photos, and in return they collect funds and send in a donation whenever they think their tin is getting a bit full!

GAP provided a list of expenses that would be incurred while the dog is in foster care so RPH BMT Ward would know what their money will be used for.

As soon as we know the dog has been adopted we provide another

certificate detailing where their dog has gone to live with pics (if we can get them).

We'd sincerely like to thank RPH BMT Ward Staff and Patients for their exceptional generosity. They are such wonderful people and it is not as if they're not already dealing with a lot themselves. Fantastic.



Foster Carer Education Sessions

Foster Families are really the backbone of the Greyhounds As Pets Program. In recognition of how valuable our foster carers are we have recently commenced a series of foster carer education sessions.

Living at a foster home is usually the first time a greyhound has lived anywhere other than in a very routine kennel environment.

SESSION ONE – Visit to Trainers Property

Our foster carers had the opportunity to visit the property of greyhound trainers Peter and Helen Sayer in November. Leading trainers Linda Britton, Chris Halse and John Iwanyk also came along to help give a rounded explanation of the racing program. Under the care of our tour guide, Michelle, the carers were able to see how racing greyhounds live before they start their life as a pet with GAP.

Michelle graciously gave us the grand tour of the spotless facilities, explaining how greyhounds are prepared for racing and we even got to meet a beautiful litter of puppies! Everyone enjoyed the tour before grilling Helen,

John and Linda with questions over lunch.

The day was a pleasant eye opener for many of our carers. It was also a fantastic



opportunity to help the carers understand the sort of environment our hounds come from, which will in turn help them mould their foster dogs into perfect pets. Here is some of the feedback we received from the visit:

"A HUGE thanks to Tammara and Kerry for arranging our visit to Helen and Peter's property - it was a real eye opener to see where the greys come from - I have learnt many things and can pass on positive news to those who are misinformed about the racing industry" Sonja and Lee

A HUGE thank you to Peter, Helen, Michelle, Linda, Chris, John and Glen for their generous hospitality and for making us feel so welcome.

SESSION TWO – Separation Anxiety

The second education session was held in December.

Dr Garth Jennens (M.Soc.Sci, Ph.D) is an

Applied Animal Behaviourist with degrees in Zoology and Psychology, and a doctorate in animal behaviour (dog attacks on livestock). Garth brings 25 years of experience in consulting and research in animal behaviour, management, welfare and training to the GAP program and has provided his assistance to us free of charge for a number of years now.



Separation Anxiety seems to be one of the biggest behaviour issues that Dr Jennens has been called in to treat and advise on within the GAP greyhounds - and in dogs in general. Our hounds are so soft natured and the issue of Separation Anxiety can manifest itself in so many ways, yet lots can be done to increase a dog's confidence and set it up to be less likely to suffer the problem.

The aim of this session was to raise awareness about separation anxiety and it's many different manifestations. Learning how to recognise the signs and symptoms; and implement preventative measures to

help the greyhound's transition into pet life was the key focus. Dr Jennens discussed how separation anxiety can be prevented, what we can do and what steps can be taken to treat separation anxiety appropriately and to increase confidence within the dogs.

We will be creating new foster files shortly. These will incorporate some of this valuable information and our foster carers are now more aware of the signs and symptoms, and have been armed with some really simple strategies to help prevent separation anxiety, and build each foster dogs' confidence.

PHOTOMAX - GAP Picture Library

An exciting opportunity to share our photos with our whole GAP family is now available.

Photomax is a website that allows us to store and share our photos. It also gives you the chance to purchase prints and novelty items, such as mugs, calendars and aprons! Best of all is part proceeds of anything you purchase will be donated to GAP!

In order to get our GAP photo album established we need your help! If you have any photos of group functions or events, such as Million Paws Walk or playgroups that you'd like to share, please submit your photos on disc.

Additionally, if you have fostered greyhounds, please also feel free to submit

photos of your foster dogs to share with their new forever families.

Please do not send photos of your own dog because once our site is established we'll send you the link to view and from there you can create your very own account to add photos of your own greyhound to share with us, your family and friends.

When creating your disc, please name each folder containing pictures according to the event or the foster dogs name i.e. Million Paws Walk 2007; Lucy (foster dog); Royal Show 2006; Max (foster dog).

We will then create albums relating to each event to make browsing the pics much easier!

So that we can get started with our Photomax website as soon as possible can you please send your discs by **Friday 1 February 2008**.

Please post your photo discs to:
GAP Photomax Album
C/o Tammara Olds
Greyhounds WA
PO Box 6
CANNINGTON WA 6987



Muzzles...

We're still on the job and waiting on notice from the Department of Local Government and Regional Development. We're currently working on sending information to the members of the Local Government Association to increase their awareness of who we are and what we do. We need their support.

In the meantime, please keep on muzzling your dogs, keep them on lead and do the right thing so that we don't jeopardize our collective longer term goals.

VALE - Thunder Dazzle

(13/04/98 – 12/12/07)

Words can't express what the loss of my *Thunder Dazzle* means to me. Thunder is the nicest boy I have ever met, I am so lucky he found me. Elegance personified with an extraordinary temperament and an awesome intelligence that makes me still wonder if he is a person inside a greyhound's body. An understanding friend said to me that for all the shapes and sizes and types of people and pets that we meet in our lives, on rare occasions we will be lucky to

meet one that "clicks" and connects with us on every level. I really believe Thunder is my canine soul mate. Rest easy my little mate, and see you soon mister, dat Fundy, dat special puppy what Em loves so much.

Emma Bramwell.



GAP Calendars



THE PERFECT PET - GREYHOUNDS AS PETS CALENDAR 2008

Our great calendar is selling out quickly! You can order via an email or phone call and will need to post us a cheque or money order or provide Credit Card Details.

The calendars are \$22 each (including postage).

You can post your order to
GAP,
PO Box 6
Cannington WA
6987

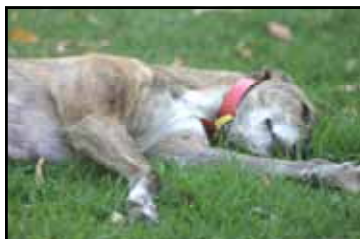


PHOTO SUBMISSIONS FOR 2009 CALENDAR

We are now accepting photos for the 2009 calendar. As we will be producing it earlier in the year we will need all submissions by **Friday 1st February 2008.**

Please refer to the following guidelines for submitting your photos.

Image Quality:

Digital photos are preferred however printed photos will still be accepted if they are of a good enough quality. Images submitted need to be the highest quality due to the larger sizes they are printed in for the calendar.

To improve quality look at digital camera settings and make the **size setting = largest** and the **quality setting = finest** this will be the biggest possible file size at the best quality.

Naming:

1. Digital photos

It is important to have a clear reference of the Dog/s name and the Adopter/s name

When saving files to disk rename the file in the following format:

DogName_OwnerName_.jpeg

Make sure each photo on the disk is named along with the disk itself



2. Printed Photos

Please write Dog/s name and Adopter/s name clearly on the back of each photo

If more than one greyhound is in submitted photos, clearly state the name of each greyhound and their colour

Please post your photos to:
GAP Calendar Photos
PO Box 6
Cannington WA 6987



GAP Playgroup - UPDATES

We introduced these Playgroup initiatives in the latter part of this year and they have been sensational fun!

The general consensus is that our greyhounds are all dead lazy and after a few short bursts of speed they seem to just potter around! However they do seem to love the interaction and the chance at mad zoomies, not to mention the owners' chances to compare notes!

GAP PLAYGROUP VENUES

*South of the River -
NEW LOCATION - Banjup
Starting 6th January 2008*
When : First Sunday of every month
Time : 2 - 4pm
Where : Pampered Pooch Pet Motel
660 (Lot 20) Warton Road
Banjup
Contact: Bev Goodall 0416 284 331

*North of the River -
Mariginup (Wanneroo)*
When : Third Sunday of every month
Starting Sunday 19th August
Time : 10 - 12pm
Where : West Coast Pet Care Centre
49 Adams Road Mariginup
(Wanneroo)
Contact : Sue Epps 0438 887 584
*No playgroup in December -
starting again 20th January 2008*

New venues

If anyone is interested in coordinating another venue / day / time please contact Kerry Vernon on 0408 883 669 and we'll help get things started.



PLAYGROUP RULES

- Greyhounds only
- All greyhounds **MUST BE MUZZLED** while running
- \$5 per dog for as many runs as you want (Proceeds after costs go to GAP)
- Foster dogs run FREE
- All dogs not running must be KEPT ON LEAD at all times
- All owners please PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

The rules are there to help create a safe enjoyable environment for everyone so please abide by them.

GAP Dog Sitting Registry

Don't forget to join the GAP Dog Sitting Registry

This information has been in the last two newsletters but we're still getting requests about it - so here's another run to remind everyone!

As an alternative to kennel accommodation for your beloved hound, Christine Higgins has offered to maintain a registry of people who would be prepared to offer occasional dog sitting for other GAP Greyhounds.

The idea is that by registering to do occasional dog sitting you may also be able to find someone who is willing to dog-sit your own hounds the next time you go away.

Chris will maintain a list of families and contact details. This list can be forwarded to people looking for dog-sitting so that they can organize a dog-sitter for their dog. That way you can look for someone you may have met at a picnic or GAP event, someone living close to you and make sure the dogs needing the sitting will fit in with kids and other pets.

These details need to 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.

GAP is not responsible for this so 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



GREYHOUNDS AS PETS

GREYHOUNDS AS PETS

PO Box 6
CANNINGTON WA 6987

Phone: 9458 4600
Fax: 9458 5695

GAP Staff **Contact details**

Kerry Vernon

Greyhounds As Pets Manager
Office Hours -

Mondays and Thursdays
0408 883 669

kvernon@greyhoundswa.com.au

Tammara Olds

Greyhounds As Pets Coordinator
Office Hours -

Thursdays and Fridays
0411 152 686

tammara@greyhoundswa.com.au

Greyhounds WA Office

9458 4600

Hounds in Happy Homes - Heather

For those of you who remember the tale of "Hoppy Heather" we thought Dorothy's poem was truly a fitting update of just how loved she is in her new home.

"HEATHER"

Into our house came another bitch
With my husband (Neil) she will never hitch
But love her lots he surely does
And I'll have to accept it "just because".

Two extra large beds we went out and bought
She'll need them for the bedroom and lounge we thought
You'll understand when I say cost wise it's just tough
As extra small would have been large enough.

Heather has a canine friend called Amber
Small enough her belly to run under
When they swap beds Heather looks so funny
In a bed so small her nose meets her tummy.

Two felines make the family complete
We were dubious when they were first to meet
At first this giant caused Charlie and Scooby Doo to hiss
But now they rub up against her and share a kiss.

Heather will bark at me if too long I take
To mix meat and biscuits for her tea that I make
She's put on weight and is 32 kilo's now
Her glossy coat draws comments and makes us so proud.

Stealing things became a bad habit
So we bought her a toy stingray, duck and a rabbit
(I know it's a kangaroo but that doesn't rhyme)
They get moved around from one bed to another
Squeaking and squawking one after the other.

For Heather we've moved furniture and been lenient
To give her sprawl room for her convenience
Never before has a bitch caused such ruckus
But we're happy to treat her like a right Royal Duchess.



Scooby Doo



Charlie



Casper in Port Hedland

*Just an update on our last edition
Hounds in Happy Homes fellow -
Casper and his family recently moved
up to Port Hedland.*

*We're not sure if Casper's immense
ambassadorial skills had anything to do
with it but we're also shipping another
hound up there this week. Go you Port
Hedland trend setters!*



Heather and Amber

Sponsors

