



Greyhound Rescue of N.E., Inc.
P.O. Box 507
Mendon, MA 01756

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MENDON, MA
PERMIT NO. 37

The Home Run

Greyhound Rescue of N.E.



Spring 2011

Please Help Us Help the Greyhounds

I would like to help support Greyhound Rescue of N.E.'s efforts by contributing:

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

For Emergency Medical Fund: \$ _____

Mail this form and your check or money order (made payable) to:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

**Greyhound Rescue
of N.E., Inc.
P.O. Box 507
Mendon, MA 01756**

All donations
are tax deductible!

Yard Sale Fundraiser for the Hounds



check electrical items and be sure they work. For lack of space, please - no clothes or furniture. If you have questions about things to bring, please call the kennel.

We're doing the yard sale again because we need funding to help run the kennel. So, please start saving your items and call us with a time to drop them off. The sooner the better, it will give us more time to price things and put them in some sort of order! And do let us know if you can help out during the yard sale for a couple of hours.

Thanks again for helping with this, it will be fun to see everyone as they bring items and visit the kennel! As always, our Hounds truly appreciate the help.



We're planning on having our "world-famous" Fundraiser Yard Sale again this spring, probably the beginning of June. Please check our Events section of the web page shortly for the exact date.

Many of you have participated in our fundraiser yard sale in the past. It's a wonderful event which brings kind people and their Greyhounds to the kennel to bring stuff! We need to do it on a little smaller scale this year. In past years we end up with so much stuff left over, and no one to take it. This year we're interested in new or gently used items. And if you would all be so kind as to

Board Your Greyhound

We can board up to six Greyhounds at a time here at the kennel. They'll have fun socializing with other Greyhounds in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. We book up quickly, so let us know as soon as you need to board. We will cater to your Greyhound's every need!



New Boarding Fee effective 1/1/09: Each dog: \$25 per day

We book up quickly so let us know as soon as you need to board!

Foster Homes

are always needed. You can help save a Greyhound's life by fostering for 2-4 week period. This will free up a crate in the kennel and we can save another dog. Then you tell us something about the dog's personality, making placement easier.

Life at the Kennel – Greyhounds in Need

We get this question all the time: “what will Greyhound Rescue of N.E. do now that there’s no racing in New England?” The answer is simple. We now take in very needy Greyhounds from other areas of the country. There are still approximately 10 tracks racing in Florida which produces hundreds of Greyhounds with no where to go. We are excited to be able to help these dogs that previously had a bleak outcome. The dogs come in from Florida in varying conditions, some tracks are better than others. Many require additional vet care and time to “clean up” and be ready for adoption. I admire the dogs’ courage. No matter what they’ve been through (and some have been through a lot), they are happy to be here. They shine with enthusiasm and happiness. They are grateful; you can see it in their eyes.

As all of you know, Greyhounds have very expressive eyes. We see very old “souls” and we love these dogs. We love what we do here helping Greyhounds from all over the country. What can you do to help? As always, the most important things we need are funding and adopters (we wouldn’t last long without these!). But every little thing helps. If you could just pick up an extra bottle of pine sol or bleach and bring it by the kennel, this helps. We have so many people helping in so many different ways, it all fits together and has kept us going for 12 years. You all have kept Greyhound Rescue of N.E. going each in your own way. All of our Hounds are grateful.

Happy Spring!

Diane, Brian, Michelle and Megan

Our First Car Donation!

In our last newsletter we were excited to announce our newest vehicle (pun intended) for donating to Greyhound Rescue of N.E. Inc. (GRNE): Car Donation. But that didn’t compare to how excited we were when Laurie and Chuck Sklener emailed us in January to let us know they wanted to donate their Chevy Malibu. Pictured above is Justin Sklener, 9, Kasi, 2, and Malibu, our first car donation. “Justin was very involved in adopting Kasi. Justin is adopted himself, so felt very strongly about giving another soul a family:) Come to think about it, Justin was 2 when he joined our family, and Kasi is 2 also.”

“The process of donating the car couldn’t be easier,” said Laurie. “We called you. You sent the form, and a friendly tow driver picked up the car. The hardest part was getting it out of the mud and snow!” (see photo)

“When we look into the eyes of Greyhounds, it’s as if an old friend is looking back at us, a friend who is in need, a friend who has given their lives for a spectator sport and all they really want in return is love. What better charity to give to than one that has given so much to us?”

Won’t you consider donating an old or unneeded vehicle to GRNE? It’s so easy and so



rewarding: the Car Donation program takes care of all the logistics, from picking up the car, prepping it for either auction or the spare-parts junkyard, issuing you an IRS tax form certifying the donation amount, and sending the donation to GRNE. You receive a tax deduction, and GRNE receives a much needed and appreciated donation. When you’re ready, just call or email us, and we’ll coordinate the rest. **Thank you!**

Who’s Top Dog in your Family?

Greyhounds are wonderful dogs....they’re sweet, gentle souls who are easy to love. They respond with a special bonding that we all cherish. One thing people sometimes forget is that Greyhounds are dogs. And dogs have distinct qualities that make living together with their human family a challenge.

Looking at our adopted dogs, about 6 in 100 have dominance issues. This doesn’t mean they are bad dogs or bad pets. I’ve actually heard that they are found to be more intelligent – they’re really paying attention to what’s going on. So what needs to happen is that these dogs are lead in the right direction to become awesome pets.

Doggie behavior is such an interesting issue. Briefly, puppies are usually raised with their littermates by their Mom. They live in “packs” and there is always a distinct pack order or a hierarchy. During puppy-time, Mom is in charge.....and amongst the litter, the puppies make decisions of the pack order based on different behavior. The highest member of the pack gets the most (and best) food, the best (and most) toys, the most attention, and the best spot to sleep. Any difference presented to this order is viewed as a challenge. And you can clearly see this challenge if you look for it. The top dog will hover over the food, toy or bed spot, give a low growl, resist, and even snap. Actually biting is usually a last resort because the warning signs were not read correctly.

Here are examples of some of the dominance issues that got out of hand:

- My dog was lying on the couch, my child sat down, and the dog bit her.....
- My dog has my son’s sneaker and when I tried to take it away, he bit me.....
- I leaned over my dog to give him a hug, and she bit me.....
- My dog was chewing a rawhide, and when I went to hug him, he bit me.....
- My dog was standing with me, I was patting him, and my child came over, and he bit my child....
- My dog bit my three year old.....I don’t know what happened, I wasn’t in the room....
- I just tried to pull her off the couch to make her go out to pee, and she bit me....
- She was sleeping at my feet and I leaned over her to give her a hug, and she bit me....
- I leaned over him to cut his toenails, and she bit me.....

There are always signs which lead up to the biting behavior. Dogs give warnings, biting isn’t usually their first recourse. Our dogs love us; they don’t want to bite us. But they need to know the rules of behavior living in the human pack, their new family. And people confuse this issue by sending the wrong messages to a dog that doesn’t know his place in the family hierarchy yet, or he just thinks he’s top dog.

In my opinion, your dog should never be Top Dog. His place is as “low man on the totem pole” after his human family. And the majority of the time, this is o.k. with the dog. He just wants to know where his place is and what’s expected of him. Dogs need to know where they fit in and what their role is. If he’s confused about this.....he reacts as such. If these confusing messages make him question his place in the hierarchy – he may be assuming he’s expected to be top dog – and act accordingly.

If you feel that your pet might be dominant – if you’ve seen signs (hunkering over something, mouthing you, standing their ground, growling) you have work to do. Here are a few suggestions to start: First and foremost – if you have children, keep the dog off the furniture. Dogs can be possessive of their space. If the dog’s on the couch, then that’s perceived as their bed. The dog should have their own space, a bed on the floor. And when the dog’s in their bed, they need to be approached carefully. Never bother a sleeping dog.....

Take your dog to obedience class. This is fun for both of you, it’s a bonding experience between you and your dog, and it puts you in a position of telling the dog what to do and when. It’s important that this be what occurs, “you tell the dog what to do and when” and that they respond accordingly. Dogs love to please you.....

Teach the dog a trick. Then make them earn everything they get....if they want a treat, if they want to go out, if they want some loving – make them do their trick. If they don’t do it, ignore them. This is very important. If they don’t do the trick quickly when asked, then they dominated the situation.

These are just a couple of “tips” on dealing with dominance issues in dogs. There’s a lot of reading material on this subject and it’s actually quite fascinating. And with the dominant dog, it’s a lifestyle. This is the best thing for the dog you love.

I bet there are a lot of people out there who have experiences that they could share to help others with dominance issues in their pets. We’d like you to write us your stories about your dealings with dominance issues in your dog. What did you experience and why do you think it occurred? How did you deal with it? What worked and what didn’t?

