



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.



## 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!**

## 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.

## Does your Greyhound ever snap at you or bite?

Greyhounds are dogs and doggie behavior is a complex and very interesting subject. Dogs rarely bite without warning, we just don't read the signs. If you ever have trouble with your GH snapping at any person, please call the kennel immediately for advice. Here's an interesting article on "Dog Aggression":

A dog's bark may be worse than his bite, but most of us would rather not find out one way or the other. Growling, baring teeth, snarling, snapping, and biting are all aggressive behaviors—but dog aggression includes any behavior meant to intimidate or harm a person or another animal. Although these messages are among the handful of communication tools available to dogs, they're generally unacceptable to humans. Because humans and dogs have different communication systems, misunderstandings can occur between the two species. But from a dog's perspective, there's always a reason for aggressive behavior. A person may intend to be friendly, but a dog may perceive that person's behavior as threatening or intimidating. Dogs aren't being schizophrenic, psychotic, crazy, or necessarily "vicious" when displaying aggressive behavior.

Because aggression is so complex, and because the potential consequences are so serious, we recommend that you get professional in-home help from an animal behavior specialist if your dog is displaying aggressive behavior.

### Types of Aggression:

**Dominance Aggression:** Dominance aggression is motivated by a challenge to a dog's social status or to his control of a social interaction. Dogs are social animals and view their human families as their social group or "pack." Based on the outcomes of social challenges among group members, a dominance hierarchy or "pecking order" is established.

If your dog perceives his own ranking in the hierarchy to be higher than yours, he'll probably challenge you in certain situations. Because people don't always understand canine communication, you may inadvertently challenge your dog's social position. A dominantly aggressive dog may growl if he is disturbed when resting or sleeping or if he is asked to give up a favorite spot, such as the couch or the bed. Physical restraint, even when done in a friendly manner (like hugging), may also cause your dog to respond aggressively. Reaching for your dog's collar, or reaching over his head to pet him, could also be interpreted as a challenge for dominance. Dominantly



aggressive dogs are often described as "Jekyll and Hydes" because they can be very friendly when not challenged. Dominance aggression may be directed at people or at other animals. The most common reason for fights among dogs in the same family is instability in the dominance hierarchy.

**Fear-Motivated Aggression:** Fear-motivated aggression is a defensive reaction and occurs when a dog believes he is in danger of being harmed. Remember that it's your dog's perception of the situation, not your actual intent, which determines your dog's response. For example, you may raise your arm to throw a ball, but your dog may bite you because he believes he's protecting himself from being hit. A dog may also be fearfully aggressive when approached by other dogs.

**Protective, Territorial, and Possessive Aggression:** Protective, territorial, and possessive aggression are all very similar, and involve the defense of valuable resources. Territorial aggression is usually associated with defense of property, and that "territory" may extend well past the boundaries of your yard. For example, if you regularly walk your dog around the neighborhood and allow him to urine-mark, he may think his territory includes the entire block. *continued on next page*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO ALL OUR GREYHOUND FOLLOWERS  
AND MAY 2012 BRING US ALL  
HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND HOMES FOR  
ABANDONED ANIMALS EVERYWHERE!

*continued from previous page*

**Protective aggression** usually refers to aggression directed toward people or animals whom a dog perceives as threats to his family, or pack. Dogs become possessively aggressive when defending their food, toys, or other valued objects, including items as peculiar as tissues stolen from the trash.

**Redirected Aggression:** This is a relatively common type of aggression but one that is often misunderstood by pet owners. If a dog is somehow provoked by a person or animal he is unable to attack, he may redirect this aggression onto someone else. For example, two family dogs may become excited, and bark and growl in response to another dog passing through the front yard; or two dogs confined behind a fence may turn and attack each other because they can't attack an intruder.

**Individual Variation:** The likelihood of a dog to show aggressive behavior in any particular situation varies markedly from dog to dog. Some dogs tend to respond aggressively with very little stimulation. Others may be subjected to all kinds of threatening stimuli and events and yet never attempt to bite.

The difference in the threshold prompting aggressive behavior is influenced by both environmental and genetic factors. If this threshold is low, a dog will be more likely to bite. Raising the threshold makes a dog less likely to respond aggressively. This threshold can be raised using behavior modification techniques, but the potential for change is influenced by a dog's gender, age, breed, general temperament, and the way in which the behavior modification techniques are chosen and implemented.

Because working with aggressive dogs can be potentially dangerous, behavior modification techniques should only be attempted by, or under the guidance of, an experienced animal behavior professional who understands animal learning theory and behavior.

**What You Can Do:**

- First, check with your veterinarian to rule out medical causes for the aggressive behavior.
- Seek professional advice. An aggression problem will not go away by itself. Working with aggression problems requires in-home help from an animal behavior specialist. (positive reinforcement techniques only)
- Take precautions. Your first priority is to keep people and other animals safe. Supervise, confine, and/or restrict your dog's activities until you can obtain professional guidance. You are liable for your dog's behavior.
- Avoid exposing your dog to situations where he is more likely to show aggression.
- If your dog is possessive of toys or treats, or territorial in certain locations, prevent access and you'll prevent the problem. In an emergency, bribe him with something better than what he has. For example, if he steals your shoe, trade him the shoe for a piece of chicken.

**What NOT to Do:**

**\*\*\*\*\*Important:** Punishment won't help and, in fact, will often make the problem worse. If the aggression is motivated by fear, punishment will make your dog more fearful, and therefore more aggressive. Attempting to punish or dominate a dominantly aggressive dog may actually lead him to escalate his behavior to retain his dominant position. This is likely to result in a bite or a severe attack. Punishing territorial, possessive, or protective aggression is likely to elicit additional defensive aggression.

© 2002. Adapted from material originally developed by applied animal behaviorists at the Dumb Friends League, Denver, Colorado. All rights reserved.

## Forever – good morning my sunshine ~ Saying good-bye to Jade

Every morning I go in the yard, to the place where three radiant sunflowers still stand tall, through rain and wind, and I ask her if she slept well. And tell her 'Good morning, Jade'. This is the spot where she sleeps – now forever – a beautiful fallen sunflower, my sunshine, my luminous girl, who just turned 10 before stepping, jumping, bolting high over the rainbow. A bright and joyous soul, up to the end, smiling or trying to smile, because she didn't want us to be upset. Not because of her. Always cheerful, happy to be with everyone - the people in the house, the cats, the other dogs, the birds at the window feeder...

She came to us as a foster dog, but quickly made her way into everybody's hearts. Our Connie, one of those very special, very, very shy greyhounds who had been with us for several months, blossomed with new confidence after spending a few weeks with Jade. Connie was especially afraid of men, and when Jade immediately warmed up to my husband, he felt vindicated. And Connie started trusting more people, and feeling more at home with us. I knew then that Jade wasn't going anywhere. She had a home. We called her 'the enforcer' when she arrived with her boundless energy, and started to show Connie that life was safe now, here, with these people, and cats. Enjoy it. Although bigger than Connie, and in every other way more impatient, Jade would always wait for Connie to eat first, standing behind her, but looking at us, as if saying, 'See how nice I am? I can wait, I want to wait, to make Connie feel good'. That was our selfless, kind big girl, wanting to make everyone happy. She couldn't conquer all of Connie's fears, but probably did a better job at it than we could. Even today, after 8 years, Connie starts shaking and panting when the distant sound of the garbage truck approaches our street, even as I hold her tight and reassure her, for the 416th time that the truck will pass by, that it is not coming for her, that she is safe with us...The big truck – the only fear that even Jade could not help dissipate; Jade, the enforcer of good thoughts, the confidence booster for our gracefully shy and fearful Connie.

Most greys are notoriously lazy, but I thought that Jade would be happy to play if she had a more energetic playmate – and that's how our feisty, hyper, curious Italian greyhound Lou arrived on the scene. We were quite a sight in the neighborhood, with 'the little one' pulling ahead on the leash, and the big greys barely keeping up with him. Everyday when I came home from work they all joined in an excited and rowdy greeting, with circular tail wagging and jumping. But only Jade jumped up and down with a twirl, like a ballerina, a most comical move from a bony creature with long legs and such a deep chest. Lately, I had noticed she was slowing down a bit, by comparison to the manic little dog, but they were 7 years apart. It must be age – we thought – as Jade was still the first to demand her evening walk, rain or snow, even when 'the little one' hid under covers to avoid the chilly weather, and not have to wear his funny sweaters.

She never showed any worries or discomfort, she kept her cheerful exuberance even as the tumors were growing deep inside her body, hidden, insidiously draining her energy; she wouldn't tell us...how could she? We thought she was gracefully slowing down as she was getting older, yet still so excited to go on her evening walks, still ready to 'sit for treat' on her special pillow, lined up with Connie and Lou, waiting for her turn. She wouldn't let us know until that frightful evening when she suddenly dropped to the ground, shaking violently. Her first seizure came completely out of the blue, no warnings, and shook us all. While under observation at the emergency clinic for the next 24 hours she did all she could to come home, slept, endeared all the doctors and vet. techs, and gave us hope it might have been an isolated incident, an error, just a little storm in her busy and happy brain. Oh good, the next day she was home! But then it came again, within hours of resting on her favorite bed. After another 2 am trip to the clinic and a series of tests, including an MRI, we had to face the verdict – brain tumor, slow growing, and a ghastly sounding histiocytic sarcoma tumor in the lungs, an aggressive kind expected to spread rapidly. How could this be, how could the liveliest and happiest of us all be struck by lightning twice? What did we miss? Why Jade?

She wore her cross on her forehead – literally – with grace and resignation, the marker for her radiation treatment; She complied with the chemotherapy and the daily medications in pill form, tablet, liquid, powder, – Ok, I'll take them all, if you give them to me, but I don't understand why...Why can't I just rest now ....— After her 10th birthday, on a beautiful summer day, I found myself in the bargaining mode – please, can we have another Christmas together? She made it to her birthday, she enjoyed the party with the neighbors' dogs, she ate doggie ice-cream, how about the winter holidays? The New Year? Please?

It wasn't to be. That morning, still a beautiful autumn day – I never thought it would be her last. She needed some help to go outside, and then to climb the stairs to the porch. But she loved to sit there, lying on an old mattress, watching 'the world go by'. She spent hours that day on the porch, with a dreamy look in her eyes, and for the first time I can remember, she looked a bit sad, but still slowly lifting her head at passers-by, still eager to take it all in. When it got chilly out I coaxed her inside, and she settled in the middle of her huge pillow, preparing to sleep. There were a few short yelps and deep sighs, so I came to comfort her, lied down next to her and felt her heart beating calmly under my palm. It comforted me, that deep, regular sound, and her dreamy expression, resting her head so close to mine. I fell asleep. When I woke up, just a few hours later, she seemed to be still sleeping peacefully, with her mouth a bit open, in a half smile, with her eyes half closed. But her heart was silent. I'd like to think we traveled together for a while, inside the intimate envelope of sleep, and she just leaped ahead over the rainbow, while I returned – alone. As if she wanted to leave on her own terms, and, as always, she tried so hard to make it easy for us, to spare us the terrifying decision.

The next day we chose the spot in the yard. There she was. A small, all gray bird, one I had never seen before, hopping on the ground right behind us. Cocking her tiny head right and left, right and left, as if judging how the light will fall on the spot, how it will dance with the shadows from the tree branches above it. She was taking tiny steps so close, I thought she'd leap on my shoulder. But then she flew away never to be seen since. I'd like to imagine it was Jade's grand spirit in the modest, fearless tiny gray bird, coming for a last good-bye, stopping by to tell us 'Yes, this will do, thank you for keeping me close to home'. Jade, who loved so much to travel, to see far away places, to feel the wind in her upright ears, to open her mouth slightly to take it all in, new smells, new places, new sights. Who frolicked on beaches, and wandered what lies out there, past the vast ocean, who marveled at the waves playing catch with her feet, while she was trying to hop over her own long shadow across the sand...

This is how we'll remember you, on an endless beach, jumping into a ray of sun, a joyous and bright soul. Good-bye, my beautiful Jade.

*Daniela & Glenn Skwerer*

