

SADLY, WE ANNOUNCE YODA'S PASSING

When Yoda left the track, his left wrist was swollen and he was transported to Roger's farm in the "wait and see" mode. As it happened, the swelling went down and we all thought that Yoda had just twisted the wrist in his last race. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, Roger noticed Yoda limping and the reoccurrence of the swelling. A trip to Ridgecrest, a few tests, and Rene Service, D.V.M. diagnosed immune mediated polyarthritis. Roger immediately informed us and arrangements were made for Yoda, then known as "Lefty's Santana" to come down.

On April 26 1997, Yoda moved into the foster home of Troy and Devon Williams and treatment began immediately. At first his doctors were optimistic but as time went on, nothing seemed to work. Yoda's body was just failing him. In addition to the disease attacking all of his joints, including hips and back, he began having grand mal seizures.

In the end, he was being treated with gold salt injections along with the pred and the phenobarb and the Cytoxin and Cyclosporine, but the terrible pain never went away. On Friday, August 22, 1997, when it became too much to bear, Troy and Devon carried him to his favorite park. They brought along a big bag of liver treats and some pigs ears, Yoda's favorites. (Through it all Yoda never lost his appetite.) After finishing all of his treats, they drove him to the office of one of his vet friends and he was put down. His short life, which began on June 3, 1995, was over,

Rest in painless peace, Yoda. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing you will never forget you or the gallant fight you fought.

In loving memory of

Axel

beloved greyhound
owned by the Hintzke family

Maggie

beloved greyhound owned by
Nancy Madigan & Jerry Self

ODE TO HUCKLEBERRY HOUND

by the Berger family

As you can see, my family put together this little tune for our Huck. Since becoming part of the family on January 17, 1997, he has just been a delight. I still rush home to see him 7 1/2 months after we got him. (By the way, one of my best decisions!!) My wife, who was a bit reluctant, now cooks for him. He's just the best and I'm working on getting #2.

Regards,
Alan Berger

"Ode to Huckleberry Hound"

written by

Elizabeth, Alan, Samantha and Max
(Sung to the theme of "Oh My Darling")

Oh Huckleberry
Oh Huckleberry
Oh Huckleberry Hound.
We rescued from the race track
And now you have a home.

No more running
No more running
No more running for the race.
The only running you'll be doing
Is through parks so sweet and safe.

Oh Huckleberry
Oh Huckleberry
No more sleeping in a crate.
You can stretch out on your pillow
And dream the day away.

Oh Huckleberry
Oh Huckleberry
No more eating bowls of mush.
Dr. Kopit says "eat healthy"
With the help of all of us.

Oh Huckleberry
Oh Huckleberry
We love you so much.
You ran into all of our lives
And our hearts are forever touched.



GPA WEB PAGE: AWARDS AND ADOPTIONS

Fast Friends, the web page of our chapter of GPA, is winning awards and bringing in ever more adoption applications. It recently received the Greyhound Emergency Medical Assistance (GEMA) Award of Excellence. The GEMA Award is presented to sites promoting the joys and responsibilities of pet ownership. The GEMA web site is at <http://www.gemafund.org/>.

Our web page also has received a four-star ranking in NetGuide Live's "Best of the Web" catalog of Web sites, tying it with the best greyhound sites on the web. NetGuide Live seeks to give "readers a comprehensive daily guide to what's live, what's new, and what's changing online." NetGuide Live gave Fast Friends four stars in all four categories: Overall Rating, Content, Design, and Personality. NetGuide Live is at <http://www.netguide.com/> (do a keyword search for "greyhound" to find the review). All of our web page's awards are displayed at: <http://www.fastfriends.org/awards.html>.

Even more important than these awards are the adoption applications that our web site brings in. The web site includes an application which can be printed out, completed, and mailed in, and increasing numbers of folks in our area are doing so. We estimate that about one-fourth of all adoption applications to GPA/CA-OC&GLA now come from the web page. Most of the others come from Show and Tells and other live shows. The Fast Friends web page is at: <http://www.fastfriends.org>.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteering is one of the greatest ways to show your love for ex-racing greyhounds. It is also a way to meet new people and make a difference in the lives of retired racers. Some of the opportunities include participating in Show & Tells, fostering a greyhound, transporting greyhounds, volunteering to work at one of our events, such as the Renaissance Faire, picnic, or a dog wash, to name just a few.