

# COUCH POTATO

SPRING 1999

THE 45 M.P.H.

UPDATE

GPA / CALIFORNIA  
ORANGE COUNTY  
& GREATER LOS ANGELES  
CHAPTER

## Upcoming Events

### MINIATURE GOLF FOR GPA

Featuring Casey  
Bartholomew of KFI  
April 17, 1999  
Camelot Golf, Anaheim

### AMERICAS FAMILY PET EXPO

Fairplex, Pomona  
April 16 - 18, 1999

### GPA ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK

Saturday May 1, 1999  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Huntington Beach  
Central Park

### BUS TRIP TO CALIENTE

May 22, 1999

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Until one has known  
and loved a  
greyhound,  
a part of one's soul

## Christmas Party

Nearly 100 people joined us on December 12th for our Christmas potluck and get together. St. Stephens Lutheran Church proved to be a great location, offering everything we needed for a great dinner. Mike Scott and Carol Vinnacomb created a festive atmosphere with their decorations and center pieces.

There were so many wonderful side dishes and desserts that it was impossible to try them all. I noticed that some people tried hard to sample some of everything and then moaned with delight.

Everyone had a grand time telling Greyhound tales and showing their latest "calendar ready" pictures. There was shopping at the Greyhound Store and much interest to see the book of pictures taken of the dogs the day they came from the track. Thanks to Gayle and Gary Stephan for keeping that up to date for us to enjoy.

And talk about a raffle!!!! Most of the prizes were made and donated by Dolly Young. Becky Mackenzie made two large Santa Claus wreaths that we all wanted to win.

What would a Christmas party be without Santa Paws and his elf?? They

passed out candy canes while we all sang Santa Paws is coming to town.

The evening ended with a sing-a-long of old time favorites accompanied by



Santa & Mrs. Paws handing out goodies to our group.



With the help of everyone, we had quite a banquet!

## WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE WITH THE CAMERA?

Every time we bring in greyhounds from the track two very quiet people show up with their camera, take great pictures of the dogs and slip away. Now, what do Gayle and Gary Stephan do with those pictures?

They provide one picture for the permanent file, (very helpful when someone wants to know how brindle the brindle is or how big the dog is I just compare the dog's height to Gayle's). With the other copies, the Stephan's keep a scrap book of all of the dogs adopted and a bulletin board of all the adoptable dogs. They carry them from Show and Tell

to Show and Tell. If you come to any of the events we hold, you will see both there. Everyone seems to enjoy seeing not only the available dogs, but how their greyhound looked on the first day of retirement.

Not only are these two projects enjoyable to see, but they help to document the history of our organization in a very meaningful way. I am sure that you all can appreciate the work that goes into keeping both the scrap book and the bulletin board up to date. We just want the credit to go to Gayle and Gary Stephan, who started the project over eight years ago. Leticia shared their home with four other dogs, two of which are Greyhounds, four cats and other loved fuzzies. She began her journey to rainbow

## Leticia Remembered

Leticia was a very special dog who brought joy to many lives. She was adopted by Gayle and Gary Stephan over eight years ago. Leticia shared their home with four other dogs, two of which are Greyhounds, four cats and other loved fuzzies. She began her journey to rainbow

## OPUS AND THE ONE MINUTE SIT

My name is Mike Gallas, and I have been involved in greyhound rescue for almost five years. About three years ago I started a small side business training greyhounds. Some of the GPA greys that have completed my Manners and Socialization course include Liberty (A.K.A. Indi), Lexi, the infamous Shona and her brother Opus.

Opus, like his sisters, is a small, extremely active dog with a very happy disposition. He has a one-of-a-kind crank for a tail that is usually wagging. I met Opus at a dog wash some two years ago. He was a definite standout! Not only was he the smallest male grey I had ever seen (approximately 55 pounds), but he was also the most outgoing. In asking about him, I found out he was at the wash because he had been returned from yet another home. Who wouldn't want such a wonderful dog? I was told that he was just too active for most households. Opus's sisters had found a saint in Becky McKenzie, and now Opus needed a saint of his own.

As it turned out, Opus, like his sisters, was born under a lucky star. First, he had charmed his way into the hearts of Joyce McRorie and Linda Adame, his surrogate godmothers. Both Joyce and Linda kept an eye on him but were becoming concerned because Opus wasn't finding a permanent home. Well, things were about to change. A

man by the name of Ken Johnson just happened to be at the GPA picnic last year with his wife Alice and their female grey Lexi. Opus was also at this picnic looking for a home. After meeting Opus and hearing of his plight, Ken agreed to adopt him. Joyce and Linda were pleased about the adoption but were concerned because of Opus's past record. Would this adoption stick?

Ken quickly came to the realization that some manners were needed if Opus was going to live harmoniously in the Johnson household. Ken had heard of my class at the picnic and decided to give it a try. I was pleasantly surprised on the first night of class to see that Ken's dog was in fact Opus, the happy little guy I had met at the dog wash months earlier. In talking with Ken the first night of class, he said "There is nothing Opus can do that would make me return him. I was really touched by this. Opus had indeed found his saint. Now, he needed to find some manners.

Opus was a special challenge for all of us. Joyce and Linda had a keen interest in his progress. I had to take the time to help where I could in order to work through the rough spots. Ken, especially, had to put in the time to make this work. Opus struggled at first, but not for lack of intelligence. He caught on quickly. His problem was a chronic case of the fidgets.

Opus is a very active guy that has no time to just sit around. Sit and Down and Stay were all easy if he didn't have to hold them. Unfortunately, one of the graduation requirements is a one minute sit and stay. As of the sixth week of class, Opus was good for about 15 seconds. Ken continued to practice diligently with Opus, and in weeks seven and eight, Opus did show some improvement. Still, a full minute of sitting was not in the cards.

The fateful day arrived, Week Nine, Graduation! Opus and his classmates had to prove themselves. One by one they were called to the testing area to demonstrate to me, their fellow classmates and several onlookers, just what they had learned. Dusty, Luther and Buck all performed what they had worked so hard on for the past two months. Lexi, Monty, Nick...everyone proved themselves. Now it was Opus's turn. Ken walked to the test site with a look of concern on his face. Opus bounced right along just wagging and smiling, happy to be moving once again. Ken gave the command...Opus heel! Opus complied, heeling out and staying at Ken's side as they walked. Now for the hard part...Sit! Opus dropped his little bottom to the ground. Ken's focus was apparent. Opus, too, was focused for about the first 20 seconds...then he started to fidget. He wanted so badly to spring into action. 35...40...45...the seconds

## AMERICA'S FIRST ABUSED CHILD?

By Eric Shelman

No, Mary Ellen Wilson wasn't the first abused child in America, but she was the first child rescued from her situation successfully. In 1874, the story of nine-year-old Mary Ellen Wilson splashed across the newspapers of New York, the nation and the world. Today, the landmark case has been all but forgotten by those outside the child protection arena.

Out of the Darkness: The Story of Mary Ellen Wilson, is a new book by Eric A. Shelman and Stephen Lazoritz, M.D. To tell the story, the authors researched the details of Mary Ellen's background and her rescue for a combined fifteen years, even conducting personal interviews with some of Mary Ellen's descendants. Shelman and Lazoritz

were granted exclusive access to the transcripts of the New York court proceeding that prosecuted Mary Ellen's foster mother. It is a document that even the New York Municipal Archives no longer possesses.

Mary Ellen was beaten daily with a leather whip, slashed with scissors, and locked inside a tiny, dark closet, never once allowed to venture outdoors. Despite repeated appeals by worried neighbors, no public agency would rescue the child. This was a time in New York City's history, the decade following the Civil War, when thousands of orphaned children roamed the streets; a child was considered fortunate to have a roof over its head, no matter what environment existed within its walls. Frustrated and unable to find a

solution, the concerned citizens finally approached Etta Wheeler, a Methodist social worker who assisted the inhabitants of the slum tenements in which Mary Ellen lived. She agreed to help.

After exhausting all other avenues, Mrs. Wheeler approached Henry Bergh, founder of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). After hearing her story, Bergh told her he would consider the case. He kept his promise, and using his uncanny ability to stir up the media of New York City, the rest truly became history. The first effective child protection agency in America was founded, the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NYSPCC). It still exists today and has rescued over two million children



## Just Ask Ruthie

Through the many years that I have been THE QUEEN in the McRorie household, I have, through example, provided counsel and guidance to hundreds of greyhounds and their owners. This column, which will be featured in every forthcoming newsletter, is meant to expand my sphere of influence and perhaps help some of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting me. Send your questions to: Ruthie at GPA/CA-OC &GLA, 1210 North Cypress Street, LaHabra Heights, CA, 90631.

Dear Ruthie,

My greyhound Susie used to be house broken. In fact, she never messed in the house until last week. Now, she urinates on the carpet five or six times a day, and right in front of the slider we let her use when we are home. Help!

Janet Muller

Dear Janet,

First for the good news. Susie is still house broken. Most dogs who urinate in front of the door they use to exit the house, are telling their owners that they are getting as close to the outside as they can, but just can't hold it any longer. My guess is that Susie has a little urinary track infection. Us girls tend to get them from time to time you know, and when they hit, we really have to go a lot. A trip to the vet should start

Susie on the road to recovery. By the way, be sure to really clean the area in front of the door. Anything that smells like urine is fair game for any dog.

Dear Ruthie,

Our family has just adopted a big, beautiful, black male greyhound named Spike. He is a joy, and VERY playful. Sometimes; however, he runs up and bites us! What can we do?

John Vu

Dear John,

Those playful boys sometimes forget their manners, don't they? If you have watched puppies play, you have seen that little nipping thing they do to each other and their owners. Unfortunately, the nipping thing is less cute and more harmful as the puppies grow into adults. You certainly don't want to discourage Spike from playing with you and your family, but he must understand the rules. When Andy came to live with us, he just loved to sneak up behind my humans and bite them in the butt. All of us dogs thought that was great fun, but the humans didn't. They started yelling at the top of their lungs, OWWWWW!! every time Andy nipped them. Before too long, Andy decided he would eliminate nipping from his play behavior. A strong NO! works too, but you must be consistent. Every nip must be corrected.

Dear Ruthie,

When we try to get our greyhound off of the sofa, he growls at us. Sometimes we wind up sitting on the

## ADOPTIONS

Here are more lucky greyhounds that found homes, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the wonderful support we are given by individuals and businesses. Listed below are the families and their dogs who came together since our last newsletter:

- Gatsby John & Clarise Roeder of Yorba Linda
- Robert Redford Jessica & Laurie Lucas of Los Alamitos
- Kenya Beverly Villapando of Long Beach
- Sky Sylvia & David Jorgensen of Simi Valley
- Sunspot Tom Thompson of Los Angeles
- Ellie Timothy Korb-Shay of West Hollywood
- Amazon Lisa & Brent Pettifer of Chino Hills
- Columbia Vicki & John Hickam of Cerritos
- Ellie Rev. Robert P. Curtis of Los Angeles
- Kem John & Patty Randall of Rancho Santa Margarita
- Suwanee Rev. Robert P. Curtis of Los Angeles
- Truckee Christopher Novak and John Hillen of Lake Forest
- Tulle D. J. Carroll & Bill Dunn of Yorba Linda
- Walker Mark & Katcha Minot of Aliso Viejo
- Basil Joy Daniel & Jay Reed of Canoga Park
- Bay Leaf Darla Szalla of Studio City
- Cayenne Tim & Barbie Link of Laguna Beach
- Coriander Harry & Kathie Olsen of Whittier
- Fennel Linda & John Payne of Huntington Beach
- Mace Wendy Thullen of Placentia
- Rosemary Geri Silveira & Frank Donnelly of La Verne
- Saffron Christopher & Wanda Cavalier of Lake Forest
- Aspen Kelly & Carole Kuntz of Lake Forest
- Cedar Denise LePenske of Lake Forest
- Cypress Ken Woodbridge & Savine Meyer of Los Angeles
- Mahogany Robert & Laura Mayes of Placentia
- Maple Shirley & Rodney Henze of San Juan Capistrano
- Sequoia T. Martin Mason of Palm Springs
- Copper Dave Roark of Upland
- Emery Vicki & Alonzo Pedrin of Orange
- Curry Ron & Samantha Broitman of

# Bus Trip to Caliente

DATE: Saturday, May 22, 1999

COST: \$50.00 per person



### TRIP INCLUDES:

\* snacks on the bus \* a visit to the pet kennel

\* admission to the race track

\* lunch at the track clubhouse

can watch the races or stay and play with the dogs in the pet kennel. The choice is yours.

### Two pick-up locations:

Metrolink station - Imperial Highway and 605 freeway, Norwalk Meet 8:30 a.m. -- bus departs at 8:45  
 Orange county - Location and time to be announced You will be returned to your pick up location between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

RESERVE EARLY SPACE IS LIMITED TO 48

Send check by May 1, 1999 to: Paige Dimas, 11404 Harrisburg, Los Alamitos, California 90720

Call Paige 565 594-6664 or Nancy 562 6933450 for questions or information

## 1999 SHOW & TELL SCHEDULE

For additional information, call Sherry at (714) 847-7179

Events subject to change - Please call to verify or check our calendar of events at [www.fastfriends.org](http://www.fastfriends.org)

### March

1st Saturday March 6  
 Anaheim PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Jerry Fraizer  
 Brea PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Janet Miller  
 Los Alamitos PetCo. 12 pm - 3 pm Carol Vinnacombe  
 Montebello PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Howard Schlesinger

1st Sunday March 7  
 Buena Park PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Jennifer DeGraffenreid

2nd Saturday March 13  
 Chino PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Jim Jeffers  
 Costa Mesa PetCo 10 am - 2 pm Kathy Mooney  
 La Mirada PetCo. 11 am - 3 pm Michael Scott  
 San Bernardino PetSmart 11 am - 4 pm Dolly Young

2nd Sunday March 14  
 Garden Grove PetSmart 12 pm - 3 pm Herb Hintzke  
 El Dorado Park - Paws in the Park 12:30 pm - 3pm Carol Vinnacombe

3rd Saturday March 20  
 Brea P Ct C OA 11 am - 3 pm Beth Glavosek  
 Whittier PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Nancy Madigan

\*Sunday - Grand Opening March 21  
 Lakewood PetSmart 10 am - 2 pm Jennifer DeGraffenreid

4th Saturday March 27  
 Pasadena PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Patricia O'Neill

4th Sunday (Last Sunday) March 28  
 Redondo Beach PetCo. 1 pm - 4 pm Dan Sullivan

### April

1st Saturday April 3  
 Anaheim PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Jerry Fraizer  
 Brea PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Janet Miller  
 Los Alamitos PetCo. 12 pm - 3 pm Carol Vinnacombe  
 Montebello PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Howard Schlesinger

1st Sunday April 4  
 Buena Park PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Jennifer DeGraffenreid

2nd Saturday April 10  
 Chino PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Jim Jeffers  
 Costa Mesa PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Kathy Mooney  
 Corona PetSmart 11 am - 4 pm Dolly Young  
 La Mirada PetCo. 11 am - 3 pm Michael Scott

2nd Sunday April 11  
 Garden Grove PetSmart 12 pm - 3 pm Herb Hintzke  
 El Dorado Park - Paws in the Park 12:30 pm - 3pm Carol Vinnacombe

3rd Saturday April 17  
 Brea PetCo 11 am-3 pm Beth Glavosek  
 La Habra PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Nancy Madigan

4th Saturday April 24  
 Pasadena PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Patricia O'Neill

### May

G PA Annual Picnic May 1 10 am - 4 pm

1st Saturday May 1  
 Anaheim PetCo 10 am - 2 pm Jerry Fraizer  
 Brea PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Janet Miller  
 Montebello PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Howard Schlesinger

1st Sunday May 2  
 Buena Park PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Jennifer DeGraffenreid

2nd Saturday May 8  
 Chino PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Jim Jeffers  
 Costa Mesa PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Kathy Mooney  
 La Mirada PetCo. 11 am - 3 pm Michael Scott  
 San Bernardino PetSmart 11 am - 4 pm Dolly Young

2nd Sunday May 9  
 Garden Grove PetSmart 12 pm - 3 pm Herb Hintzke  
 El Dorado Park - Paws in the Park 12:30 pm - 3pm Carol Vinnacombe

3rd Saturday May 15  
 Brea PetCo. 11 am - 3 pm Beth Glavosek  
 Whittier PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Nancy Madigan

\*Grand Opening - PetCo Buena Park 11 am - 3 pm  
 May 15 and 16, 6020 Ball Road, Buena Park, (714) 828-4600  
 Bus Trip to Caliente Pet Kennel 8:30 am - 8 pm

4th Saturday May 22  
 Pasadena PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Patricia O'Neill

5th Sunday (Last Sunday) May 30  
 Redondo Beach PetCo. 1 pm - 4 pm Dan Sullivan

June

1st Saturday June 5  
 Anaheim PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Jerry Fraizer  
 Brea PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Janet Miller  
 Los Alamitos PetCo. 12 pm - 3 pm Carol Vinnacombe  
 Montebello PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Howard Schlesinger

1st Sunday June 6  
 Buena Park PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Jennifer DeGraffenreid

2nd Saturday June 12  
 Chino PetSmart 11 am - 3 pm Jim Jeffers  
 Costa Mesa PetCo 10 am - 2 pm Kathy Mooney  
 Corona PetSmart 11 am - 4 pm Dolly Young  
 La Mirada PetCo. 11 am - 3 pm Michael Scott

2nd Sunday June 13  
 Garden Grove PetSmart 12 pm - 3 pm Herb Hintzke  
 El Dorado Park - Paws in the Park 12:30 pm - 3pm Carol Vinnacombe

3rd Saturday June 19  
 Brea PetCo. 11 am - 3 pm Beth Glavosek  
 La Habra PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Nancy Madigan

4th Saturday June 26  
 Pasadena PetCo. 10 am - 2 pm Patricia O'Neill

### DOOR PRIZES/RAFFLE PRIZES

With our 4th annual picnic right around the corner (May 1st) we need door prizes and raffle prizes to help us raise money. If you would like to donate an item, please call Nancy at 562 693-3450.

Possible ideas are gift certificates, event tickets, gift baskets, dog related items or anything that you would enjoy receiving as a prize. You don't have to buy the item yourself either. Ask local businesses, friends or employers if they would be willing to donate an item to G PA/OG & GLA. And when you ask be

LUNCH AVAILABLE AT

# Dog Wash At the McRorie Corral

April 25 \$15

Price includes: shampoo & conditioner designer scarf ears cleaned toenails cut  
 And as an added bonus you can have a run around the corral (the greyhound, not you!)

By Appointment Only Call Paige 565 594-6664