GEM'S GREYTHOUND GAZETTE

The official newsletter of GreytHounds of Eastern Michigan

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INDIAN SUMMER EDITION

Hi all,

Apologies for the delay in putting out this edition of the newsletter, but it's finally here! In this issue, you'll find a photo gallery from the GEM Event, some ideas for fund-raising and volunteering, and an update about the Greyhound Hall of Fame.

There is also an article from the Veterinary Information Network (VIN) about the safety of Chinese-manufactured pet treats. An interesting read.

And, don't forget about the Arbor Microbrewery fund-raiser coming up on September 28th. Lots of fun, incredible home-baked doggie treats and special food and beer. See the flyer in this edition for more details!

And once again, may I "hound" you for any and all kibbles and bits of information you'd like to share with your fellow GEMs!

Christine Victor,
victoroo@comcast.net

DID YOU KNOW?

Margaret Gorman (August 18, 1905–October 1, 1995) is best known for being the first Miss America, from the year 1921. Here she poses with her greyhound, "Long Goodie".

© National Photo Company/Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons.

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."
—Groucho Marx

TREAT GUIDELINES FOR DOGS

Treats and additional food items should not exceed 10% of the daily caloric intake. The majority (90% or greater) of the calories should come from a complete and balanced food (i.e., a dog's maintenance or therapeutic commercial diet OR a home-cooked diet formulated by a veterinary nutritionist specifically for your pet). For example, if your dog eats 100 Calories per day, NO MORE than 10 Calories should be from treats or other foods (with 90 Calories from a complete and balanced diet).

Fruits and vegetables are good options for many dogs since they are usually low on protein, fat, sodium,and phosphorus. Please avoid food items known to be harmful to dogs, including chocolate, macadamia nuts, garlic, onions, grapes, and raisins. Additionally, the FDA has released a warning regarding the use of commercial jerky pet treats; for a summary of this issue see: http://www.fda.gov/animalveterinary/safetyhealth/productsafetyinformation/ucm319463.htm

Source: UC/Davis Veterinary Medicine

An Upgrade for The Greyhound Hall of Fame

The Greyhound Hall of Fame archives finally have been brought into the 21st century with the purchase of PastPerfect software, and it could not have happened soon enough for Kathryn Lounsbury, the Hall's general manager.

More than 30,000 greyhound-related artifacts—including what Lounsbury believes to be the only original copy of the first stud book published in the 1800s—have been stored in the archives and each has been catalogued and given a number for historical purposes and easy accessibility. Until recently, this information was stored on a computer with a DOS operating system using Q&A database software purchased in the 1980s.

"Since I came here I've been looking for new software for the archives, and I've been here 14 years," Lounsbury said, adding her concern was that data would be lost forever if the program or the computer crashed.

"Researching the old system... was like a scavenger hunt."

With no financial resources to fund the update, however, years passed until the annual Greyhound Gathering this past June at the Hall of Fame. Donna Weeks, who coordinates the Gathering, and the Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan pet organization, organized fundraising efforts to benefit the Hall of Fame. Donations from a live auction and raffle were earmarked for improvements to the Fast Friends kiosk and implementation of the PastPerfect software for the maintenance of the Hall's archival data.

Weeks said the installation of PastPerfect represents a huge technological step forward for the Hall of Fame, which she views as a place where those in the adoption community can learn more about their pets and research their greyhound's history.

"The greyhound adopters that came to the Hall of Fame in June were impressed by the deep history of the greyhounds and developed a more thorough understanding of where their dogs came from and how they were raised," she said. "Strengthening the bond between the racing community and the adoption community should be the goal."

Lounsbury said this is the most substantial gift a greyhound pet organization has made to the Hall of Fame, which operates totally on contributions, and she is extremely grateful for all donations.

"We have moved into this decade thanks to Donna Weeks, and the Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan adoption group," Lounsbury said. "They have made a donation that will impact the ability to maintain reliable records and ensure the treasure placed in our hands will be properly cared for. This will impact our museum for years to come."

Lounsbury contacted officials at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, located across the street from the Hall of Fame, and other area museums for software recommendations. All suggested PastPerfect, which according to the company's website is used by over 9,000 museums and is the world's leader in collection and contact management software, providing tools that streamline and automate accessions, exhibits, condition reports, research, and other common museum practices.

"Now we are on par with just about any museum around," Lounsbury said, adding the Smithsonian Institute uses PastPerfect.

Data from the Q&A program has been transferred to a new computer dedicated specifically to the new software program. To aid in research, a little-used printer at the lobby desk was relocated next to the computer in the office, and a scanner was purchased so photographs can be scanned into the computer for viewing, eliminating the need to look up originals in the archives. Eventually, Lounsbury hopes to place these photographs and other scanned historical items on the Hall's website for easy access from anywhere in the world.

All new artifacts given to the Hall of Fame will be entered directly into PastPerfect, as will a number of recently donated items that have yet to be catalogued due to the danger of the old Q&A program crashing.

"Our intention was to preserve the past, and all we were doing was storing it," Lounsbury said. "We have boxes of stuff to put into our database that haven't even been opened."

Once these items are catalogued this winter, they will be placed on new shelving in space once occupied by video equipment no longer used. The archives doubled in capacity once this equipment was removed, allowing existing artifacts in the room to be reorganized for easier access.

"Research using the old system took longer than it should have, and then it was like a scavenger hunt," Lounsbury said, adding that authors recently conducting research in the archives for books about greyhound racing found it to be a very time-consuming process and sometimes had difficulty locating what they were looking for.

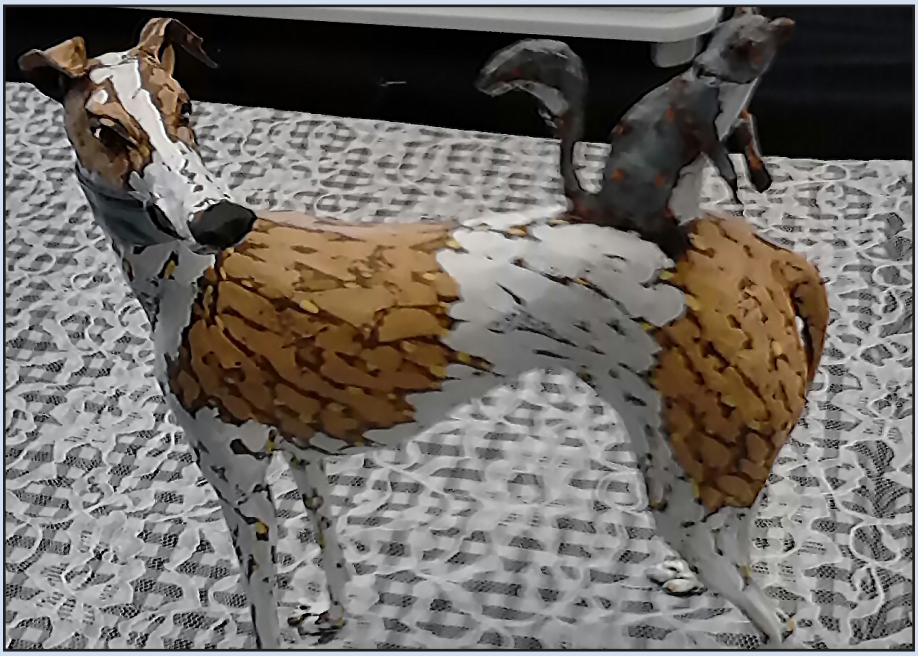
She considers the new software program a long overdue necessity. "It's not something you can see, like a new exhibit, but it had to be done in order for the Hall to move forward. It helps us fulfill our mission to preserve the past, honor the present and build for the future."

*Reprinted with permission of Donna Weeks/*Greyhound Review Magazine.

The GEM Event, held May 16–18 at the Livonia Holiday Inn & Conference Center gave greyhound families the chance to visit with friends old and new, shop for must-have items, and enjoy the generous hospitality of GreytHounds of Eastern Michigan.

Educational seminars on topics such as fostering and the TGIE Training Program were held, along with a presentation by Key Note Speaker, Dr. James Radcliffe from Town & Country Animal Hospital. Auctions, nail trimming, and other greyhound activities rounded out the three day Event.

2014 GREYHOUND EVENT OF MICHIGAN



Love
Laug

2014
2014

Care of the
Racing & Retired Greyhound
THE REIGN
of the
GREYHOUND

5th Annual Dog Daze of Summer Fundraiser

ARBOR BREWING COMPANY MICROBREWERY
720 NORRIS ST., YPSILANTI
SEPTEMBER 28, 2 P.M.–5 P.M. IN THE BEER GARDEN

Support the GreytHounds of Eastern Michigan (GEM)
featuring a special batch of HOP HOUND ALE.
$1 for every mug or grrr-owler fill of Hop Hound Ale,
or $25.00 from every NEW Mug Club membership goes to GEM.

Microbrewery Specials: BOW-WOW BRATS & PAW-SOME PIZZA
Homemade doggie treats will be available for purchase!

ARBOR BREWING COMPANY MICROBREWERY
YPSI BEERGARDEN AND PUB

GREYTHOUNDS OF EASTERN MICHIGAN
G.E.M.

Pet Treats: Does "Made in USA" Mean Safe?

Pressure from consumers doubtful about the safety of chicken jerky made in China prompted changes by two dominant marketers of dog treats. Big Heart Pet Brands, maker of Milo's Kitchen brand, moved manufacturing to the United States. Nestlé-Purina PetCare added domestically produced jerky to its Waggin' Train line. "Made in USA" labels in general don't always tell the whole story; some ingredients may be imported.

A couple of years ago, buying chicken jerky treats for dogs almost certainly meant buying a product made in China. Today, dog-snack aisles of the nation's leading retailers are dominated by packages featuring prominent "Made in USA" labels, often accented with American flags.

Whether feeding dogs jerkies made in America rather than China will make a difference to their health, though, is an open question.

"I … don't think we know that jerky treats made in the U.S. are safe, do we? But we keep specifying Chinese-made products," Dr. Jennifer Larsen, a veterinary nutritionist, wrote recently on a message board of the Veterinary Information Network (VIN), an online community for the profession and parent of the VIN News Service.

"Until we more fully characterize this problem and can determine any treat as safe," said Larsen, an associate professor of clinical nutrition at the University of California, Davis, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, "I will continue to recommend against using jerky treats regardless of country of origin."

The safety of jerky treats for dogs has been in doubt since 2007, when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began hearing from dog owners and veterinarians about animals becoming ill, some fatally so, after eating chicken jerky made in China.

The FDA has searched since then for a contaminant that would explain the illnesses and deaths but come up empty. Cases continue to arise, including some that implicate duck and sweet potato jerkies. The agency's latest tally of jerky-related complaints found more than 5,600 dogs affected—over 1,000 of whom died—plus 24 cats and three people.

Meanwhile, an ample selection of jerky products remains on the market. However, consumer pressure has pushed stores and vendors away from Chinese production. The shift climaxed last month with announcements from Petco and PetSmart, the largest pet specialty chains in the country, that they would phase out within a year all made-in-China comestibles for cats and dogs.

The declarations marked the culmination of years of growing public mistrust of all pet food and treats made in China. Suspicions about the quality of imports from China date to the melamine calamity of 2007, when tens of thousands of animals were sickened, some lethally, by eating pet food contaminated by dishonest Chinese suppliers.

Despite the resulting distaste for Chinese-produced pet foods, it was nearly impossible until recently for a shopper looking for dog treats to avoid items made in China. According to Lisa Stark, a spokeswoman for Petco, more than 90 percent of treats five years ago were Chinese imports.

Giving treats to your dog doesn't require buying a pet product. Foods such as carrots, apples, squash, bananas and popcorn (minus the butter and salt) are safe and enjoyable for most dogs. See a list of ideas plus a note on foods to avoid here.

Whether the "made in China" part is responsible for the apparent problem with jerky is unproven.

"Are we seeing more of these cases (of illness) from jerky treats from China simply because that's where all of them (were) made?" Larsen mused in an interview. "Or are we seeing a problem with the Chinese manufacturing process? I think it's too early to say."

Pet-treat makers and retailers say they are switching to domestically made treats not for safety reasons but to satisfy consumer preferences.

"Our consumers said that they really wanted to see products made in the United States, with no ingredients sourced in China," said Chrissy Trampedach, a spokeswoman for Big Heart Pet Brands, formerly Del Monte Foods. "We decided to make a commitment to do that. It's a choice we made based on consumer wants and needs."

Big Heart sells the jerky brand Milo's Kitchen. The line was made in China until last year, and is produced now with American poultry in the United States.

Nestlé-Purina PetCare, another major seller of treats, opted to continue producing its Waggin' Train brand Chicken Jerky Tenders in China, although it switched from multiple suppliers and manufacturers to a single suppler and single factory for tighter control, according to company spokesman Keith Schopp.

Milo's Kitchen and Waggin' Train were among several brands recalled by manufacturers in January 2013 after the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Food Laboratory detected illegal antibiotics in the jerkies. Although the drug residues aren't believed to be responsible for the illnesses, their presence is not allowed.

Big Heart and Nestlé-Purina instituted manufacturing changes upon returning jerkies to the market this year. Although some Nestlé-Purina production remains in China, the company recently introduced two products—Jerky Duos and Smoky Jerky Snacks—made in the United States from domestic ingredients, Schopp said. "We wanted to give consumers a choice," he said.

Schopp explained that chicken tenders are made from breast meat, which is more readily available in China owing to a preference of the Chinese palate for dark meat. Conversely, dark meat is more readily available in the United States, Schopp said, so Waggin' Train U.S.-made jerky varieties for dogs contain dark meat.

Continued on next page.

A second brand of chicken jerky made by Nestlé-Purina called Canyon Creek is being phased out "for marketing reasons," Schopp added. He acknowledged that Canyon Creek jerky was similar to Waggin' Train jerky. "It was pretty much a name thing," he said.

Figures from the Pet Food Institute, an industry trade group, suggest the American dog treat market is increasingly lucrative. Marketers sold $2.6 billion in dog treats in 2013, more than double the sales in 2000.

The demand for U.S.-made pet treats, in addition to influencing owners of established brands to alter their manufacturing practices, has opened the market to new brands. Delca, owner of think!dog brand, has a new line of jerkies made of creatures from Louisiana bayous—alligator, crawfish, shrimp and crab.

From the meat to the bag it's packaged in, the product is sourced and made in America, said Delca spokesman Flynn Baglin.

A decade or so ago, Delca made pet treats in China—not jerkies but hard treats such as biscuits and cookies, Baglin said. The company became dissatisfied with conditions there. "We found it was unstable, and it was low quality and high risk," he said. Asked to elaborate, Baglin said he could not be more specific because the treats were private-label products that remain on the market. "Some of the factories just had lower quality-assurance that we could not tolerate," he said.

As a maker of a variety of pet products, from cat scratching posts to puppy training pads, Delca continues to manufacture some items in China. Baglin said China is extremely efficient at producing small plush toys, for instance. But Delca is striving to bring as much manufacturing as possible to the United States, Baglin said, a goal it achieved recently with poop bags. The switch required inventing machines here. "Businesses are ready to do it," Baglin said "They're ready to make deals happen."

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) oversees the use of made-in-USA claims, providing guidance to marketers about how to make the claim truthfully. The agency advises that those who promote products as "made in USA" must meet what is known as the "all or virtually all" standard.

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO), which develops model state laws and industry guidelines on animal feed and pet food, offers this elaboration: "… the product should contain no—or negligible—foreign content. So just putting together ingredients inside the U.S. is not enough. Additionally, just getting ingredients from a broker within the U.S. is not enough. If ingredients are imported, then it is very difficult to justify the use of the phrase 'Made in the USA.' "

Julia Solomon Ensor, an attorney in the FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection's Division of Enforcement, said any questions or complaints about such labels on pet foods and treats would be reviewed in tandem with the FDA, the federal authority on food and drug labels.

Ensor noted that the majority of complaints about U.S.-origin claims come from competitors of companies making the claims. "The consumer has very little ability to analyze on his or her own whether the claim is true or not," she said. "Usually the person in the best position to know whether it's true or false is a competitor."

The sometimes complex nature of food processing can make clear labels hard to apply. Case in point from the human-food side: A decision last summer by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service cleared the way for poultry from the United States to be sent to China for processing, then returned for sale to the American market.

In an article about the decision, the New York Times reported that no USDA inspectors would be present in Chinese plants, and that poultry processed there wouldn't require country-of-origin labeling. (Whether and when such processing may occur is unclear. Food Safety News reported late last year that China has yet to certify any plants to process chickens for export, and that American companies have not expressed interest in sending poultry to China for processing.)

In a similar twist, pet-food products made domestically may contain imported ingredients. Megan Bensette, a spokeswoman for the FDA Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, noted that no requirement exists for a package to list the source of each ingredient. "We recommend that consumers contact the company to verify the origin of ingredients if they are seeking products that contain only U.S.-sourced ingredients," Bensette said.

Susan Thixton, founder of the website truthaboutpetfood.com, did just that, and posted the results of her inquiry. More than one pet-food manufacturer acknowledged obtaining ingredients such as vitamins and minerals from a variety of foreign countries, including China.

In deciding to eliminate products made in China from store shelves, Petco and PetSmart put themselves in a position to act as arbiters of the label. But Petco doesn't plan to assume that role. "We're not doing any kind of major verification," said company spokeswoman Stark. "We just expect that our vendors are providing us with what they say they're providing us with."

PetSmart, for its part, will have "ongoing conversations with our vendors" to ensure they're following the "all or virtually all" standard, said company spokeswoman Michelle Friedman.

While Petco and PetSmart are the largest pet retailers to drop Chinese-made treats, they're not the first. Dr. Meghan Ellis, a veterinarian in Sanford, North Carolina, who operates a pet store, remarked on a VIN message board: "Lots of independents have already stopped carrying these items. Who wants to risk making a customer's pet sick?"

Before stocking a treat brand, Ellis said she verifies its origins by asking manufacturers directly. "If they don't answer, they're out," she said in an interview by email.

Ellis asks not only where a product is made but where its ingredients come from. "'Made in USA' only means the final product is manufactured here," she said. "The ingredients can be from anywhere, including the dreaded China."

She chooses to carry only products made and sourced in the United States, Canada, Australia or New Zealand. "These are countries that have at least USA standards for pet-food manufacturing," Ellis said.

One type of product can't be found in Ellis's store no matter where it was made: jerky. "Since we don't know what is causing the illness, I feel more comfortable not selling the treats," she said.

Ellis compared jerky to grapes, which are toxic to some dogs for unknown reasons. "Some dogs eat grapes their entire lives and they're fine. Another dog eats one grape of the same kind and goes into kidney failure, and we have no idea why," she said. "So we say, 'Don't feed your dog grapes.' Makes sense to me."

Reprinted with permission from VIN (Veterinarian Information Network), June 10, 2014 by Edie Lau.

http://news.vin.com/VINNews.aspx?articleId=32423

The GEM Store Featured Items

GreytHounds of Eastern Michigan is proud to supply pet owners around the world with useful products at reasonable prices. Our motto is "We have what you need!" Visit our on-line store at

http://www.gemgreyhounds.net/gem_store/online_store.htm

Although many of our products are intended for use with sighthound breeds we also carry grooming and medical supplies, safety products, collars and leads, and of course some toys that will appeal to all breeds.

Front

Back

Greyhound Can Koolerz

Perfect for keeping drinks cold! Head and a paw print with the word "Greyhound" printed on one side. Head, neck and shoulders with "Greyhound" printed on the reverse. **$3.00**

Greyhound Socks

These greyhound socks have a standing greyhound with a background of grass and trees on the ankle. The foot area has the word "Greyhound" in black on both sides of each sock. They are 75% cotton, 20% nylon, and 5% Spandex and are machine wash and dry. **$10.00**

Outdoor Blanket (by Alcott)

Whether you're star gazing or hot dog blazing, your dog can be part of the fun with our fleece explorer outdoor blanket. Its base is waterproof to keep your dog dry, and it easily folds up for travel. **$25.00**

- 50" x 50" unfolded
- 12" x 7" folded
- Lightweight (22 oz.)
- 2 nylon webbing Handles
- 1 nylon webbing closure with Velcro
- Super soft green fleece on top
- Black waterproof base
- Folds for easy travel
- Two storage pockets

ASK MS. FUGGLES!

Dear Ms. Fuggles,

Why do my humans insist on talking to me like I'm a baby? I'm 60 years old in people years, and yet they are always saying things like "How's my widdle fluffy-wuffykins?" It's embarrassing, to say the least. I can't actually roll my eyes, because I'm a dog, but I would if I could.

Not Your Puppy-Wuppy

Dear Not Your Puppy-Wuppy,

Well, you've just got to understand that you're cute. Darn cute. Dogs are cuter than any "real" baby, if you ask me. Just perk up your ears and wag your tail and you'll be even more adorable. So adorable that there's probably a treat in it for you. And then you can turn around and stick your tongue out at the cat.

If you have any burning questions about fashion, being cool or just life in general, send them to victoroo@comcast.net and include "Ask Ms. Fuggles" in the subject line!

Ways You Can Volunteer or Fund-raise for GEM.

Have you wondered in what ways you can help to volunteer or raise some money for GEM? Well, there are many ways you can! Here are a few ideas to get you started.

MEET & GREETS. This doesn't have to be a monthly event. Is there a local pet store nearby? Contact them and ask if they would be willing to allow you to hold a Meet & Greet. Then, set up a date, post on GEM Mail, and bring a container to hold donations, along with our flyers. It's easy to show off our beautiful dogs and collect money.

SCHOOLS/NURSING HOMES. Set up visits to schools or nursing homes to introduce the students and residents to the dogs and explain about greyhounds. Greyt way to get the word out about greyhounds and greyhound adoption, and let the dogs meet people face to paw.

EATERIES. Many restaurants allow you to hold a fund-raiser, i.e. Applebee's, Max & Erma's, Buffalo Wild Wings. Set up a date, invite people, hand out flyers, and if people give the flyer to their server, GEM can get up to 20% (depending on the restaurant) of their bill.

LOCAL BUSINESSES. Do you know of any local businesses that would be willing to do a fund-raiser? Arbor Brewing Microbrewery (Corner Brewery) has been very generous for the past several years. GEM can benefit from the proceeds from an annual event.

YARD/GARAGE SALE. Have a sale and ask friends and neighbors to bring their "stuff" and allot the proceeds to GEM.

CAR WASH. Hold a car wash and get a group together to help. This would be a good event for kids to be involved.

BOWLING. Many bowling alleys will allow fund-raisers. Check with your local one to find out the details to holding one there.

It's always good to check to make sure another event isn't happening on the same day that might be close to yours. Just ask. You might even have an idea of your own.

—Linda Maton

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

"I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot;
Follow your spirit: and upon this charge,
Cry — God for Harry! England and Saint George!"

—William Shakespeare, Henry V

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GEM

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Beth Barnhart—Committee Member
Merrie West—GEM Store
Susan Buza—Greyhound Procurement Coordinator
Helen Davanzo—Committee Member
Pam Allion / Christine Victor—*GreytHound Gazette* Newsletter
Gary Hull—Committee Member
Gary and Fran Hull—GUR Team / Supplies
Helen Davanzo—Vetting Coordinator
Beth Barnhart—Comittee Member
Susan Buza—Committee Member
Fran Hull—Volunteer Coordinator

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(877)436-3647 / (877) GEM-DOGS
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