

THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING EDITION

The 2015 Greyhound Event of Michigan is coming up fast! We are always in need of volunteers to help the Event run smoothly and insure a wonderful time for all attendees. Can you donate some time and talent?

Don't forget to take a moment to say thank you to all the GEM members that take time every month to coordinate and participate in our Meet &



Greets. It's so important to spread the word about adopting greyhounds. I'm sure you've all encountered people who have absolutely no knowledge about this special breed of dog. And if they say they do, it's a good bet they

have a head full of myths and misconceptions. So do say "Thanks!" and consider volunteering a few hours of your time to show off your hound and enlighten the masses.

Keep those photos and stories coming in, but *please* remember that you may need permission to use images or text that come straight from the internet! These may be subject to copyright and are not meant to be used freely.

Christine Victor,
victoroo@comcast.net

THE 2015 GREYHOUND EVENT OF MICHIGAN PRESENTS "THE ROOING TWENTIES"

Wow, Can you believe it? The 2015 Greyhound Event of MI is just over two months away?

What happens at the Event you ask?

Seminars, petting dogs, shopping, petting dogs, raffles, petting dogs, auctions (both silent and live) and petting dogs!

In case you don't know, your dogs are welcomed and can be with you most everywhere in the hotel for the weekend.

The Event is again being held on May 15th through May 17th at the Livonia Holiday Inn and Conference Center (NE corner of Six Mile and Interstate 275), 17123 Laurel Park Drive North, Livonia, MI 48152.

The festivities kick off on Friday with a FREE Pizza Party and Ice Cream Social. This is the perfect time to meet people who you know on GEM mail or Facebook and may have not met "in person" yet. It's also a great time to catch up with old friends you don't see often.

The weekend continues with guest speakers, shopping, seminars, raffles and auctions.

With people coming from far and wide to attend, it's surely a great weekend and a great time that you won't want to miss.

Can't stay all weekend? That's OK. Attending the Event is perfect for a day activity as well, and we would love to see you and your hound(s).

For more information, click here: <http://www.gemgreyhounds.org/greyhound-event-michigan/>



Logo design by Suzie Collins
of Skinny Hound Designs

ROOING TWENTIES

—Beth Barnhart
President

DO DOGS DREAM?



Photo: Wikimedia Commons, by author Eugene0126jp

Your dog lies asleep at your feet, and suddenly his legs begin to twitch and run. Is he dreaming? Or are you dreaming to think such a thing? Wake up and smell the dog food! Of course he's dreaming. Why would you think otherwise?

Although no one really knows the true function of dreaming it does seem to be necessary for normal data processing and memory storage. Dogs think and they have memory. And their memory banks need period purging and reorganization during sleep just as ours do.

Dogs and humans are not as different as some scientists would have us believe. Scientists tend to dwell on the differences between the two species, whereas the sameness is positively compelling. We're 95 percent identical genetically and physically (right down to the iron-containing porphyrin ring our common blood pigment, hemoglobin). Because of this blue print similarity, you might expect a lot of the inner workings to be the same –and they are. Our brains are similar, our neurochemistry is the same, and our reflexes and memory are “wired” in like manner.

Types of Sleep

Like humans, dogs have two main types of sleep: rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and slow wave sleep (SWS). As a dog falls asleep the first stage he enters is SWS, the “sleep of the mind,” in which mental processes are muted but muscle tone remains. The next stage is REM sleep, the “sleep of the body,” in which the body is fully relaxed but the mind is racing and the dog's eyes are darting rapidly.

In SWS, brain waves are slow, undulating and of high amplitude much like those in a lightly anesthetized animal or person. In this stage, the dog appears calm and at rest. Dogs and humans are more easily aroused from SWS sleep, which appears to be a transitional state with incomplete muscle relaxation.

By contrast, in REM sleep brain waves are rapid and irregular, like those of the awake state. Dogs, like people, display REM sleep, and during REM sleep they show evidence of heightened mental activity—fast electroencephalogram [EEG] (brain wave) pattern. They may move their legs as if they are running, may whine or whimper as if excited, and may breath rapidly or hold their breath for short periods.

When REM sleep is achieved they are at their most relaxed and are most difficult to waken. It is during this more profound physical sleep that their eyes begin to dart and the brain waves pick up pace. Humans awakened from this state report that they have been dreaming; dogs are probably dreaming too when they are in REM sleep, although no dog has ever told anyone about a dream he's had.

Incidentally, adult dogs spend about 10 to 12 percent of their sleeping time in REM sleep. Puppies spend a much greater proportion of their sleep time in REM sleep, no doubt compacting huge quantities of newly acquired data.

And if you've ever wondered whether dogs that seem to be running during sleep are dreaming of catching rabbits or something similar, you can safely say they are.

Written by Dr. Nicholas Dodman
www.petplace.com

Getting an IMMOVABLE Hound into a Van

by Dana Laggan

Taking my dog out every morning in my van had been one of my favorite routines for the nearly 10 years that I had my greyhound Kirby. After she passed away I was oh so pleased to find out that our senior foster, Callie, loved car rides as well. We promptly adopted her and I carried on with my tradition of taking my dog to parks, to the bank drive-thru, and other various errands every morning. It never crossed my mind that I would ever have a dog that didn't want to ride in the van—or at least get into the van, I should say—until we adopted Callie's baby, Penny. She was great once she was actually in the vehicle and she thoroughly enjoyed the ride, but getting her in it was nothing short of a miracle!

Whenever we would bring Penny anywhere near the van she would completely freeze up. Her limbs would lock up, her eyes would glaze over, her nose would instantaneously start dripping, sometimes she would tremble, and there was NO way anyone was going to budge her! And actually step up into the van if we got her to the door? Yeah, right! Good luck with that! She reminded us of those fainting goats that freeze up and fall over.

We called her "our goat". As funny as it sounds, it was tremendously discouraging, as this was one of my favorite morning routines. The icing on the cake was when I took her to a nearby park, which she thoroughly enjoyed (I think a little too much because she did NOT want to go back to the van). She froze about 20 feet from the van. She is strong, stubborn, and heavy. I genuinely hurt myself getting her back to the vehicle. That was it. I knew I couldn't take her out any longer until we worked this out somehow.

It never crossed my mind that I would ever have a dog that didn't want to ride in the van...



I sought advice, read information online, etc. Was this ever going to change? To be honest, as the weeks went on, I thought it might not. It even seemed to be getting worse. But we finally worked it out! I will share with you what I did in case you are running into the same problem with your greyhound.

First of all, I knew that Penny was extremely food-motivated (thank goodness, as treats have been my secret weapon!). I began taking her outside and giving her really yummy treats within sight of the van. Then I began feeding her treats as we walked around the van. Then I would give her a treat if she went near the van with the door open, and then when I got her up to the opening, etc. You get the picture. She was getting much better but she could NOT jump up into the van. She had some sort of mental block. She was seven years old and I don't think she had ever jumped, or jumped much, so I just don't think that skill was in her repertoire.

The only way I could get her up—besides lifting her, which I did until my back was killing me and decided that wasn't an option either—was to lay down a mat I had that folds up like a cube and use it as a step. I could guide her to step on it one paw at a time (okay, so maybe "guide" is not the right word. I actually had to lift up each paw for her one at a time!). The mat was big and cumbersome and she didn't like that it was

continued

squishy, so I knew this wasn't a long-term solution either. I looked into getting a ramp and settled on which one I would like to try. However, before I purchased it I had a brilliant idea. I dug out my old plastic step stool from the closet and used it as a step for Penny. It worked!! Okay, so I still have to guide her paws up 5 months later BUT IT WORKS!!! Her front paws go up onto the step stool and then into the van. Then I put one back foot on the step (sometimes she'll even do this

herself when she's in the mood) and say in an upbeat happy voice, "Push!" and she pushes off her back foot up into the van. She still freezes before we begin the stepping-up process but I can snap her out of it when I stick a piece of kibble in front of her nose (I was unable to do that before). I am so thankful to have found a solution, as she LOVES her outings with me and her mama Callie.

New Look for GEM Store On the Road

These were taken at the Novi Pet Expo and show the new look for the GEM Store On the Road. Please give credit to Kathy Helm as her daughter was responsible for GEM getting the new tables and table covers at a very, very low price. It really gives the GEM store a sharp new professional look. *Photos by Ives Potrafka.*



More GREYT pics from the PetCo Meet & Greet in Allen Park. *Photos courtesy of Gaye Ann Weaver.*

Please send in photos from your Meet & Greets! We'd love to have them in the newsletter.

DOG DAZE OF SUMMER FUNDRAISER

Photos from the Arbor Brewing Company Microbrewery Dog Daze of Summer Fundraiser held on September 28 of last year.

Bakery = \$84.00
Raffle Basket = \$122.00
50/50 Raffle = \$121.00
Donation Jar = \$45.00
Lia Sophia donation = \$20.00

TOTAL \$392.00



HOW I ENDED UP WITH TWO GREYHOUNDS

by Dana Laggan

I was VERY content with ONE greyhound and two kitties—the PERFECT mix for me. TWO big dogs? No way! Too much fur, too much expense, too much work, too many dog beds in the living room, too much poop to pick up, too big of a pain when going out of town, the list goes on and on. I was adamant about this. I tried taking in a second dog many years ago and that lasted six months. I was too overwhelmed. I was NOT repeating that experience again. NO, NO, NO!!

About a year and a half after my GEM Kirby passed away, we adopted 10-year-old Callie from a group here in Florida (where we currently live). She is my perfect little angel and was perfectly content being an only dog. Ahhhhh, I was in a sweet spot in life. About a year after adopting Callie, my neighbor around the block who also has a greyhound was over visiting one day. She asked, "Aren't you dying to know where Callie's babies are???" Callie had a total of 12 pups over the years. My answer: "Nope! They are all older so I'm sure they've all been adopted out years ago. Plus, they were mostly boys and I like having girl dogs. That would be hard though if one came along because I don't know if I could pass her up. But I REALLY don't want TWO dogs!"

I swear to you that it wasn't a week later when the foster coordinator called me. I believe she started out the conversation with, "Your husband is gonna kill me...but I have to tell you... Callie has one baby left at the farm (almost seven years old) and they will be releasing her

soon. Do you want to come and meet her?" I thought to myself, UGHHHHHHHHH. NO, I don't want to go and meet her because how can I pass her up? Oh man, this is throwing a monkey wrench into my brain! This is NOT supposed to happen! To my surprise, my husband jumped all over the opportunity for us to go and meet her. So we did. I forgot to mention that I've also always said that I NEVER wanted a black dog. NO, NO, NO! It's too hot in Florida and the sun is too strong for black fur. You can't see fleas and ticks on a black dog, etc. Well, of course Callie is black and, as we discovered, so was her pup!



Fast forward two months. We adopted "Paris Design", whom we renamed Penny, on Easter. She is just as perfect as her mama. They are so cute together. It did take me a couple of months to adjust to having two dogs, the extra expense, the extra fur, and the extra poop (did I mention Penny poops a lot? We didn't nickname her Miss Penny Poo for nothing!) but we wouldn't trade her in for the world. As far as workload for me, the fact that these are two

of the most chilled-out, easy-going Greyhounds helps tremendously.

We love Penny very much and Callie loves having her around too. It is such a unique and special experience having a mama and baby. People always love to hear their story. Okay, so I'll only make an exception for two Greyhounds JUST this once! Ha! Do you believe it? Callie is now nearly 13 years old and my husband was taken aback the other night when this popped out of my mouth: "Hmmm...I wonder where Callie's grandbabies are?"

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.



Soggy Doggy Superabsorbent Microfiber Chenille

- Absorbs 5X more water than "regular" doormats and towels
- Antibacterial and quick-drying, remains odor and bacteria-free
- Exceptionally durable yet velvety soft
- Machine wash and dry on low heat

Soggy Doggy Super Shammy

One size dries all: 31" X 14"

Hands are inserted into pockets at the ends.

Colors: Beige, Dark Blue and Dark Chocolate **\$18.**



Soggy Doggy Slobber Swabber

Marine blue cleaning pad with white handle. Overall Size: 13" X 5"

Cleans dog drool and slobber from floors, windows, car seats, etc. Silky fibers are gentle on dog's face

and snout. Fits conveniently in car console. Machine wash pad separately, cool water, dry on low heat.



Soggy Doggy Slopmat

For water or food bowls, shoes or boots; 18" X 24"

Colors: Beige, Caramel or Dark Chocolate with Dog Bone **\$20**



Soggy Doggy Doormat

Use as a doormat, crate liner, travel bed, sofa protector, or car seat cover.

Colors: Beige, Blue, Caramel, Cranberry, Dark Chocolate, Evergreen (Available with and without dog bone)

Large: 26" X 36" (roughly 2 ft. X 3 ft.) **\$40.**

X-Large: 36" X 60" (3 ft. X 5 ft.) **\$85.***

Colors: Beige, Caramel, Dark Chocolate, Blue (Available with and without dog bone)



Special Order Only!

Soggy Doggy Super Snoozer

X-Large 42"—**\$160.***

Colors: Beige and Dark Chocolate

Spongy pad conforms to your dog's body. Cover removes easily and unzips into two pieces for easy machine wash and dry.

*** SPECIAL NOTE!** Because of the weight, additional shipping costs may be incurred. Please contact: merrie@gemgreyhounds.org for specifics regarding cost to ship to your location.



ASK MS. FUGGLES!

Dear Ms. Fuggles,

I've just been adopted, so I'm new to this whole comfy couch and endless ear scratches thing. I must say I'm thoroughly enjoying it. I don't want to sound ungrateful, but I think my new humans are kind of stingy with the treats. Any tips for getting them to dip into the cookie jar a little more often?

Countess Surfer

Dear Countess Surfer,

Congratulations on your adoption! Greyhound people are pretty good at spoiling us, but I know what you mean about being a little tight with the Milk Bones. My preferred method is to stand and stare at my human. Anytime and **every** time they are in the kitchen or in close proximity to the treat jar. No matter if they try to shoo you away. **Don't budge.** Stand right next to them. Look like you're going to pass out from hunger any second. Again, don't move a muscle. Pretend you're that ugly greyhound statue that they picked up at the neighborhood garage sale. They'll be so tired of having to walk around you, they'll give in. Works every time!

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!

What's the (Poop) Scoop?

One of the best tips I have ever received is one that I read in *Celebrating Greyhounds* magazine a few years ago. Who wants to stick their hand in a baggie and pick up a warm piece of (sometimes mushy) poop? A job that nobody enjoys! Thanks to this tip, I have not felt warm poop in my hand for a couple years now! You get a kitty litter scooper and put a baggie over it. Now, I know this might sound weird and you might feel weird doing it, but trust me, it's worth it. When your dog is walking and about to poop, you can put the scoop right under their butt and catch it and then turn the bag inside out and tie it up. If that grosses you out too much (my husband won't do it, no way!), you can still benefit greatly by scooping it up with the cat litter scoop—with the baggie over it—instead of feeling it in your hands. Try this tip and I promise you, you'll never look back!



—Dana Laggan

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GEM

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Committee Contacts

Renee Potrafka—Adoptions / Foster Coordinator

Beth Barnhart—Committee Member

Helen Davanzo—Applications Coordinator

Beth Barnhart—Committee Member

Merrie West—GEM Store

Susan Buza—Greyhound Procurement Coordinator

Helen Davanzo—Committee Member

Pam Allion / Christine Victor—*Greyhound Gazette* Newsletter

Gary Hull—Committee Member

Gary and Fran Hull—GUR Team / Supplies

Helen Davanzo—Vetting Coordinator

Beth Barnhart—Committee Member

Susan Buza—Committee Member

Fran Hull—Volunteer Coordinator

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(877)436-3647 / (877) GEM-DOGS
Lost / Found Dog Pager: (877) 567-8436

GEM Board

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