

# GEM'S GREYTHOUND GAZETTE

The official newsletter of GreyHounds of Eastern Michigan

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<http://www.gemgreyhounds.net/>

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## WE NEED YOU!

We're a little short on content for the *Gazette* these days, which makes it difficult to produce a newsletter that fully represents how extraordinarily passionate our members are about greyhound adoption. We need your help to make the *Gazette* a more interesting newsletter. Please consider writing a story about your favorite pup, interviewing a fellow GEM who you think is interesting,



penning a poem, or sending in a helpful tip about living with greyhounds. We'd love to include photos from the latest Meet & Greets too.

We're open to suggestions! What would YOU like to see in the newsletter? Remember to please refrain from just pulling articles or images off the web; there may be copyright issues with the materials.

Christine Victor,  
[victoroo@comcast.net](mailto:victoroo@comcast.net)

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Xander Victor.



## Lap of Love Offers End-of-Life Veterinary Care

**Lap of Love** is a network of veterinarians around the country whose goal is to empower every owner to care for their geriatric pets. Their philosophy centers around the human-animal bond and the need for that bond to be as undisturbed as possible during this most difficult time. The desire to bring this important service to families across the United States is slowly being realized as additional veterinarians begin working under the same philosophy.

You can use the Zip Code search at <http://lapoflove.com/> to see if there is a Lap of Love veterinarian in your area.

### About the Founders of Lap of Love

Dani McVety, DVM and Mary Gardner, DVM are the founders of Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice, the largest network of veterinarians dedicated solely to end-of-life veterinary care. As one of the first services of its kind, Lap of Love has quickly

grown since 2009 from one veterinarian in Tampa, Florida to over 70 veterinarians around the United States.

Drs. McVety and Gardner frequently write and speak for professional and lay audiences on end-of-life veterinary topics in hopes of empowering both parties to seek the highest standards of care. They have been featured on numerous local, national, and professional media outlets including ABC, Fox 13, University of Florida Alumni Magazine, Entrepreneur Magazine, DVM Newsmagazine, and many more. Both Drs. McVety and Gardner graduated from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Lap of Love's nicely designed site also offers urns, memorials, and specialty pet care items for seniors. They also have links to resources for determining your pet's quality of life and other important topics on senior care.



# Avoiding Holiday Health Hazards

*Here are some tips from the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine to help keep your pets safe during the upcoming holiday season!*

The holiday season brings excitement and commotion associated with shopping, final exams, travel, and other seasonal preparations. In all the activities of the season our beloved pets may be exposed to hazards less commonly found other times of the year. As homes fill with holiday spirit, pets may be intrigued by the new sites, smells and tastes. The following are some of the most common health concerns for your pet during the holidays. If you have specific questions regarding any pet health concern please contact your veterinarian.

## Tinsel, Ribbon and other Pretty Things



Ribbons, wrapping paper, ornaments, tinsel, extension cords and gifts may be appealing

“chew toys” that may make your pet sick.

There is something about those shiny strands of Christmas tree decor, which drives kitties wild. Although the sight of your cat pawing at the tree may be cute, the ingestion of tinsel can be deadly. Eating tinsel or other string-like items such as ribbon (often called linear foreign bodies) can cause serious damage to the intestine. One end can get stuck while the rest is pulled into the intestine as it contracts; the contractions may cause the ribbon or tinsel to saw through the intestine. If not caught in time, infection of the belly cavity develops and the prognosis for recovery becomes poor. Pets with linear foreign bodies quickly become ill with signs including vomiting, diarrhea, depression, belly pain and sometimes fever.

Eating other holiday decorations can cause signs ranging from mild depression to severe vomiting or diarrhea, depending upon whether or not the foreign matter can be passed in the stool or gets stuck along the way. Foreign matter stuck in the intestine often does NOT show up on “x-ray” but sometimes the foreign matter will trap air in the intestine, which helps your veterinarian make a diagnosis. Surgery is required to remove foreign matter that does not pass out on its own.

## Holiday Lights



Decorative lights are another attraction for pets to chew on. Both indoor and outdoor lights should be

carefully examined to ensure safety for your household pets. Electrical shock may occur from defective cords as well as from pets chewing on cords. Check cords for any signs of bite marks, loose or frayed wires, proximity to the tree’s water supply or evidence of short circuits. Use grounded “3-prong” extension cords and strictly follow manufacturer’s guidelines for light usage.

Electrical shock can cause burns, difficulty breathing, abnormal heart rhythm, loss of consciousness, and death. Call a veterinarian immediately if your pet has been injured by electrical shock. Treatment will be most effective if begun soon after the shock.

## Water, Water...

Even though they have their own water bowl, there is something enticing about a novel source of water; whether it’s the toilet bowl or the Christmas tree stand. If you add chemicals to the water meant to keep your tree fresh longer, be sure to read the label to make sure it is safe for pets.



Potpourri makes your house smell festive but may be another attraction for pets to drink. Make sure that

potpourri pots are covered or otherwise inaccessible to pets.

It may be difficult to curb your pet’s fascination with all those pretty decorations. Child gates can be used across doorways to keep your pet away from the Christmas tree and decorations at times they cannot be watched.

## Overindulgence



Well-intentioned family and friends may share holiday foods with pets causing the pet to develop a stomach upset

or worse, pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) which can be caused by eating fatty foods. To control excessive food intake by your pets and meet your guests’ desires to feed the pets, dole out the treats your pets would normally receive and let your guests “treat” the pets. If you want to get festive, mix some of your pet’s regular food with water to make a “dough” and roll out and cut into festive shapes, then bake until crunchy.

Extra attention from visiting relatives and friends may be relished by some pets while others seek solitude in their favorite hiding spot. Make sure pets are given some “personal space” if they want to get away from the commotion.

Some pets may respond to all the hullabaloo with a change in behavior including bad behaviors like eliminating in the house. Try to spend a little extra “quality time” with your pet to assure them they have not been forgotten.

*continued*

## Chocolate



What would the holidays be without boxes of chocolate and warm cocoa in front of the fire? However, chocolate can be toxic or even fatal to dogs and cats. Chocolate may be mistakenly given to pets as treats and may be irresistible to the curious canine. Chocolate poisoning occurs most frequently in dogs but other

species are also susceptible. Theobromine is the toxic compound found in chocolate. Signs which may appear within 1 to 4 hours of eating chocolate include:

- Vomiting
- Increased thirst
- Diarrhea
- Weakness
- Difficulty keeping balance
- Hyperexcitability
- Muscle spasms, seizures, coma
- Death from abnormal heart rhythm

The toxicity of chocolate depends on the amount and type of chocolate ingested:

Source	Potential Toxic Dose (44 lb. dog)
Unsweetened Cocoa	3 oz.
Baking Chocolate	5 oz.
Semisweet Chocolate	7 oz.
Milk Chocolate	20 oz.

The amount of theobromine in white chocolate or chocolate flavored dog treats is usually negligible. As with any poisoning, call your veterinarian or an emergency veterinary hospital immediately if you suspect your pet may have ingested chocolate. Have the product label information available when you call your veterinarian. There are national and regional poison control hotlines for animals. In general, the treatment of poisonings is most effective if begun soon after eating the poison, before large amounts are absorbed into the blood.

## Poinsettias, Holly & Mistletoe



Poinsettias fill homes with color during the holidays. Poinsettias have received bad publicity in the past whereas in fact, poinsettias are not very toxic to pets. They do contain a milky sap that can irritate the mouth but if signs develop they are usually mild.

Mistletoe on the other hand, can be very toxic to animals and you should seek veterinary consultation immediately if your pet has potentially ingested any part of the plant. Mistletoe can cause vomiting, severe diarrhea, difficult breathing, shock and death within hours of ingestion.

There are many species of Holly (genus *Ilex*). Ingesting berries and leaves can be a problem although signs of poisonings are generally mild, and include vomiting, belly pain, and diarrhea.

## Pets as Gifts



A cute, cuddly puppy or kitten may seem to be the perfect gift but unfortunately after the holiday season the population of animal shelters explodes with these “surprise gifts”. Owning a pet is a long-term commitment that not every one can make.

## Dealing With Death or Severe Illness over the Holidays



The holiday season heightens our emotions and can be a very difficult time to deal with the loss or illness of a companion animal. The bond between animals and humans is often very strong and losses can be very painful. If you or someone you know needs support without judgment from those who appreciate

your feelings and may be able to help, please contact the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine Pet Loss Hotline.

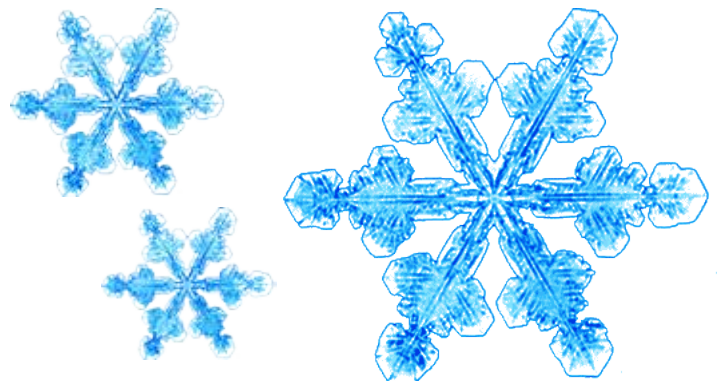
**Call: 1-(866) 266-8635 or (509) 335-5704**

or

**Email: [plhl@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:plhl@vetmed.wsu.edu)**

This information is not meant to be a substitute for veterinary care. Always follow the instructions provided by your veterinarian.

*All images Public Domain/Wikimedia Commons.*



# DOG DAZE OF SUMMER FUNDRAISER

A gorgeous fall day, hound-approved baked goods, great raffle items, delicious food and drink, and a fantastic turnout made the 6th Annual Dog Daze of Summer Fundraiser held on September 13, a GREYT success! Thanks to all who participated!



# CHEF FUGGLES COOKIE CORNER

While you're busy in the kitchen baking holiday treats, don't forget your loyal and loving pups! These were a big hit at the Dog Daze of Summer Fundraiser!

## SNICKERPOODLES

Crunchy cookies that will make your house smell like the holidays while they're baking. Resist the urge to sample them yourselves, although the ingredients are perfectly human-friendly.

1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/2 cup shortening  
1 cup honey  
2 eggs  
3-3/4 cups white flour  
2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 cup cornmeal  
2 teaspoons cinnamon

Mix vegetable oil, shortening, honey with eggs. Beat well. Add flour, soda and cream of tartar. Knead dough until mixed well. Shape dough by rounded teaspoons into balls. Mix the cornmeal and cinnamon together in a bowl and roll balls in mixture. Place 2 inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Press the balls down with a fork. Bake for 8–10 minutes at 400 F.

*Recipe courtesy of Linda Maton.*

## I CAN HAZ CHEEZBURGERS

Gluten-free for sensitive tummies, these have real ground beef in them. Be sure to keep them in the refrigerator or make an extra batch and freeze them.

1 cup ground beef (cooked and drained)  
1 cup cheese (shredded)  
1 egg  
1/4 cup milk  
1 cup rice flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit.

Allow cheddar cheese to warm to room temperature and in a large bowl combine all ingredients until well mixed.

Roll out dough on floured surface 1/2 inch thick. Cut into shapes with the cutter of your choice. Place treats on an ungreased cookie sheets and bake for 15–20 minutes.

Cool and refrigerate.

You can add three slices of cooked and crumbled bacon to the recipe for bacon cheese burger treats.

From: <http://doggydessertchef.com/>



## Researching Your Greyhound's Lineage

**H**ave you ever been curious about your hound's lineage? Not just "mom" and "dad", but back a few generations? Greyhound-Data provides information about greyhounds from all over the world with pedigree information drawn from the last four centuries.

Online are over two million greyhound pedigrees. To easily get that information, go to <http://www.greyhound-data.com/> and fill in a your hound's racing name, color, and sex, and birthdate. It's not necessary to have the exact date, there is a range of years you can choose from. You can also search by ear tattoo. And you can even upload a picture of your pup to include in the database. Results will show not only the sire and dam, but the "grand sire" and "grand dam" as well as the offspring of the dam and the original owner. There's a lot of interesting information to research through if you're so inclined.

You'll find other resources there, such as "Ask the Vet", an on-line newsletter, videos and a forum. Be forewarned, although the website is very much pro-adoption, it is also pro-racing.

# The GEM Store Featured Items

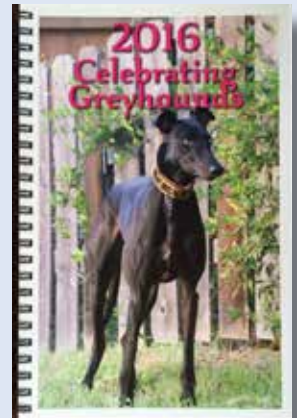
GreytHounds of Eastern Michigan is proud to supply pet owners around the world with useful products at reasonable prices. Our motto is "We have what you need!" Visit our on-line store at

[http://www.gemgreyhounds.net/gem\\_store/online\\_store.htm](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.

## 2016 Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar

2016 Celebrating Greyhounds Calendar with 14 months for your enjoyment. Greyhounds from all over the world are featured on this spacious 12" x 9" Wall Calendar. Also included are Greyhound Adoption group contacts from across the United States, Australia, Canada, Europe and the United Kingdom. **\$12.00**

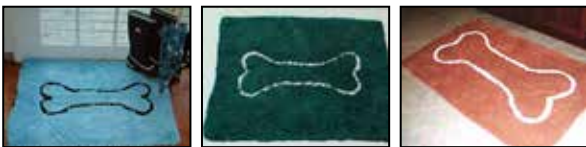


## 2016 Celebrating Greyhounds Planner

Compact: 5.5" x 8.5" closed. 8.5" X 11" opened. Fifty-four weeks from December 27, 2015 through January 7, 2017. Every week features different adopted Greyhounds from around the world. A listing of adoption, referral and support contacts for Greyhound groups in the United States, Australia, Canada, Europe and the United Kingdom are included. **\$15.00**

## Soggy Doggy Superabsorbent Microfiber Chenille

- Absorbs 5x more water than "regular" doormats and towels
- Antibacterial and quick-drying, remains odor and bacteria-free



### 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.) **\$40.00**

X-Large: 36" x 60" (3 ft. X 5 ft.) **\$85.00\***

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



## Special Order Only!

### Soggy Doggy Super Snoozer

X-Large 42"—**\$160.00\***

**Colors:** Beige and Dark Chocolate

Spongy pad conforms to your dog's body. Cover removes

### 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 **\$18.00**



### Soggy Doggy Slopmat

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

**Colors:** Beige, Caramel or Dark Chocolate with Dog Bone **\$20.00**

**\*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



## ASK MS. FUGGLES!

Dear Ms. Fuggles,

I'm not a greyhound, but I'm hoping you can still give me some advice. My problem is that my mom and dad are dogsitting someone that I'm not really crazy about. She's bigger than me and her manners are atrocious. I've tried to make friends, but she's just in my face all the time. What should I do? I think they're going to offer to dogsit her again!

*Gidget (A Border Collie)*

Dear GABC,

Even though you are not a greyhound, because you admit to my superior advising skills, I will be happy to help.

You could do something like break a vase, tear up a couch cushion or throw up right next to the bed (highly recommended) while mom and dad are out of sight and point your little paw at the interloper. That might make them think twice about inviting her back.

Or, you could go for the unlimited treats ploy by sucking it up and being just the sweetest little pup ever to you-know-who. I'd make sure you point out to the "guest" that she's gonna have to pony up a good portion of her treats, otherwise there's going to be some fur flying—and it won't be yours.

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

**"Ever consider what dogs must think of us?  
I mean, here we come back from a grocery  
store with the most amazing haul —  
chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think  
we're the greatest hunters on earth!"**

**— Anne Tyler**



Image: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GEM

### Mailing Address

GreytHounds of Eastern Michigan  
P.O. Box 194, Wayne, MI 48184

### 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

### Phone Numbers

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

### GEM Board

**President: Beth Barnhart**

[president@gemgreyhounds.org](mailto:president@gemgreyhounds.org)

**Vice President: Gary Hull**

[vicepresident@gemgreyhounds.org](mailto:vicepresident@gemgreyhounds.org)

**Secretary: Katie Lentz**

[secretary@gemgreyhounds.org](mailto:secretary@gemgreyhounds.org)

**Treasurer: Ives Potrafka**

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**Trustee: Jill St. Pierre**

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**Trustee: Bob West**

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**Trustee: David Hildabrant**

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