August 2014 Volume 1 Issue 3

Greyhound Pipeline Express

It's Vacation time those lazy days of summer just perfect to enjoy our third edition of the Pipeline Express Ezine.

The GT&A kicked off the season with the Annual Family BBQ. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day. The sun came out with a lovely light breeze. The new venue at Master's & Hounds in Ayr was delightful. Lots of parking and space to wander, a private hound play area for the day with pools to enjoy as well as the well-stocked store. New vendors as well as the established favorites were there to tempt you and your hounds with anything and everything you could want or need.

Old friends and new friends met and socialized and the sound of laughter and giggles played through the air with an occasional bark and snuffle.

The wafting smell of the BBQ was irresistible AND there was Cake to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the

GT&A, compliments of the GT&A Group.

We are all looking forward to next year, so let the planning begin. For those who were not able to join us this year we hope to see you in 2015. I can't think of a better way to start the season.

Look for Pipeline event announcements coming to you soon as activities come on line.

After GREYT Escape 2014 over the first weekend of August our Wine Social at Aure Wines in Beamsville will be coming up in September. Details to follow soon.

So sit back and enjoy.

As always your comments and thoughts are most welcome.

At any time should you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please drop me a line.

Yours truly

Pamela Cramp
p.cramp@yahoo.ca

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Upcoming Events

August 9:

T-Legs: BBQ & Car Wash
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Chateau de Chien, 6B de Lourdes, Pointe Claire, PQ

August 16:

GT&A: Pawlooza
10:00 am – 6:00 pm
The Plunkett Estate 9282 Elviage Drive, London, ON

August 23:

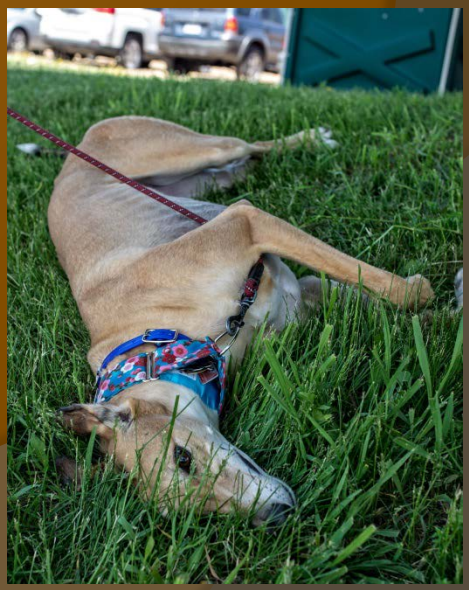
T-Legs: Meet and Greet at TooZoo
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
TooZoo 4066 Blvd St. Laurent, Montreal, PQ

September 20:

GT&A: GreytVines & Greyhounds
12:00 – 3:00 pm
Aure Wines and Silo Bistro 3749 Walker Road, Beamsville, ON (See next page ad)

Looking to get some early Christmas shopping done?

Watch our website and Facebook for upcoming Auctions in August and October!



Greytvines & Greyhounds.

Join us at Aure Winery your Hosts in Beautiful Niagara
Saturday Sept 20th,

GREYTVINES & GREYHOUNDS

Place, AURE Winery, 3749 Walkers Rd, Beamsville

Time, 12PM - 3PM

There are No Fees and No Registration required. This event is open to the Public, ALL greyhounds and ALL greyhound adoption groups.

Always check the website and Facebook page for possible Event changes!

A Family Vacation with your Hounds

By : P. Cramp

Summer is now in full swing and many of us faced question of where to go, what to do and what do I do about my hound(s).

Depending on your lifestyle and what your expectations about travel and vacationing are you may want to try something a little different. How about taking your greyhounds with you? It may be just what you are looking for.

The key here is planning. The web is an incredible resource for information and then there are people you know who may have ventured there before you. Use all the resources you have to make the best choices for your family.

First thing to consider, at least for me was, does the dog like to travel in the car? One of my hounds was so terrified of the car she would hide if she heard the keys and thought she was possibly going to have to get in the car at all. Obviously not a good candidate. My others would have lived in the car if I'd let them.

Second where are we planning to go, how are we getting there and what are we doing once we all arrive.

Once you have a plan mapped out now starts the research to make this a vacation to remember for everyone including your beloved hound(s). There are many dog friendly motels and beaches that provide excellent accommodations. Some are better than others read all you can including reviews of people who have actually used the services.

The popular basics were very consistent and easy to summarize below without being overwhelming.

Make a trip to the vet before you leave just to be sure your hound is in good health. If you're visiting a foreign country, like the US, proper paperwork, such as a health certificate and vaccination records will be required to enter the country. Be sure you know what is required before you get to the border. Each country's requirements may be different. Without required paperwork your pet may be quarantined. Finding out if there are any bylaws or restrictions regarding pet ownership in the areas you will be traveling to is a really wise idea to avoid any possible difficulties.

Talk to your vet and put together a first aid kit for your hound(s). That may come in handy while you and your pet are traveling. Be prepared. It will keep your stress level in check.

Make sure your hound(s) tags are current and have accurate ID information. A good idea would be to have two tags. The second one with the address of where you are staying and a cell number or local number where you can be reached. Keep a recent photo of your greyhound along with a record of their ear tattoos, microchip number if available, proof of vaccinations health record with you.

Take plenty of food, water and any medications your greyhound needs. Keeping your hound on the same foods and routine will take the stress out of travelling. You'll need lots of plastic bags, paper towels, water and a pooper-scooper for cleaning up after your pet. Spritzing a little air freshener when leaving is a good idea as well. Pack the muzzle that keeps everyone safe and happy. Knowing where the local vet and emergency is located is good piece of mind for you. Having some of the favorite toys and blankets that smell like home helps for a smooth adjustment to a new environment.

Car travel depends on your personal preferences - You may choose to crate your dog. A wire crate large enough for your dog to stand and turn around while providing good ventilation is a solid choice, if you have the room for it. As with children in event of an accident it is certainly the safest because the dog does not become a projectile in the vehicle.

Continued….

A Family Vacation with your Hounds continued

For those of us who cannot do the crate and the hounds are loose make sure there is plenty room to get comfortable with soft blankets and cushions to settle down on. Filling the backseat leg-space of cars with cushions or soft packed bags then covering with a blanket provides more room and ensures no one gets a leg stuck down a mysterious holes that just appears out of nowhere. My hounds have all experienced the dreaded black hole before I clued in.

Stop often, where both your family and your hound(s) are welcome, take a bathroom break, stretch, get a drink of water, relax and take your time. Why rush you're on vacation!

Common sense dictates never, ever leave your pet in a car. In warm weather, your car will heat up quickly and your greyhound can overheat and die. On another note your pet could be taken if the opportunity is available.

As more and more people travel with their pets many motel and hotel chains have become pet-friendly in the last few years. Always be sure to check before you book about weight and size restrictions. Not all hounds adapt well to these new environments. Hotels can be frightening places with strange smells and noises. Until you know for sure how well this is going to go confining your hound to a crate or X-pen when leaving him alone is highly recommended. What you don't want is a stressed anxious or frightened hound that can become destructive or constantly bark. Use the do not disturb sign and write "loose dog inside" on it so housekeeping is fully aware of why they aren't to open the door.

The Short Reminder Packing List

- Dog bed and or blankets to sleep on
- Muzzle
- Favorite toy
- Dog bowls for food and water
- Stands for the bowls
- Food and containers for the food
- Treats
- Coat if weather is cool
- Leash
- Vitamins and supplements
- Any medications they are currently taking
- Brush or comb
- Small can of sweet potatoes—just in case of diarrhea
- Towels for dogs if you are going to be near water
- Poop bags
- Small flashlight for walking when dark

Continued….

A Family Vacation with your Hounds continued

And now a short story …..

It was amusing to me that after all the research the most memorable vacation we ever had with our beloved Ghost was not even mentioned. To make this a well-rounded piece sharing our adventure seemed appropriate. We had a toddler and a large hound (although not a Grey), that suffered from destructive separation anxiety. Our solution, we rented an RV for 10 days, planned a route and travelled from family friendly site to site. Ghost was in heaven. A full master bed to sleep on when she wanted and a couch to lounge on and watch the world go by as we drove. She loved being in a moving vehicle of any kind and she was always with her family. The leash was kept on a hook by the door and the screen door was kept closed at all times. We planned outdoor adventures she was welcomed at. The storage under the unit held her crate in case we needed it and would hold an X-pen nicely. I've heard from another Grey owner how they traveled North America this way using the X-pen to form a private yard for their hound. Ghost is now gone and that toddler is 21 but that vacation is still talked about to this day as the BEST family vacation we ever had. It provided cherished memories we will have forever.

Jack's Blog

By Angie Villeneuve (a.k.a Jack's Mom)

As we all know, every year Our Pet Parents take us to the Vet. Not necessarily my favourite ride. I like the car but not that way. After much poking and probing and pulling and yanking, I received a clean bill of health. (Only thanks to my Mom). My Vet was most impressed with my teeth. I'm now six and as we all know we as a breed have questionable dental issues and most commonly dumpster breath. But wait, we have a secret weapon in our house now!!! It's called an Oral B. Yes that's right, a battery operated tooth brush! Most times Mom scales my teeth, which is rather pleasant but this time along with the scaling she decided to add that little surprise in my mouth. At first I didn't like the vibration but I gave her some slack and allowed it a bit at first. You know Mom, she is persistent. With a little encouragement and some baby talk I thought OK why not. Success! I have great teeth and minty fresh breath. Mom says there are many wonderful tooth pastes for canines out there and my favourite is Vet's Best dental Gel with Neem oil. There are others but I'm not a big fan of Oregano and it makes me smell like Pizza. I like pizza but I don't want to smell like one. Now when I smile, Mom says I could glow in the dark they are so shiny. Oral health is vital for our lives. Fresh breath also makes better friends. Who wants to cuddle with us if we smell, right? So on that note I'll say keep smiling and co-operate when your Pet Parents want to brush your teeth. Till next time.

Jumpin Jack Flash

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Canine First Aid Toolbox

By: J. Cormier

Better to have and not need, then need and not have.

Over the years, I've come to realize the need to have a comprehensive first aid kit in the house for those "uh-oh"s and boo-boos that happen from time to time. In most cases, simple injuries can be treated at home without having to run to the vet for an expensive bandaging. Of course, use your judgment on what is simple and what really does need veterinary care. My first aid kit started small but over the years has grown and taken over a good portion of my linen closet.

Here are my basics:

- **Gauze rolls** – invaluable when you have a weeping injury or a larger injury
- **Reusable Cold/Hot Compress** – for various injuries. Always wrap in a towel or cloth before applying.
- **Non-stick Gauze pads** – get the non-stick! They're worth the extra money especially when leaving a bandage on longer than a few hours.
- **Vet Wrap** – to secure gauze to your pet and provide a water resistant cover
- **Medical Tape** – to secure gauze or other bandages
- **Antibiotic cream** – for cuts or scratches
- **Colloidal Silver** (liquid; CS for short) – an natural antibiotic cleansing agent which is great to rinse wounds with; anytime we have an open wound to air, I rinse it twice daily with CS liquid to keep it clean
- **Maxipads** – I know this sounds strange, but with weeping wounds, this will protect your furniture and carpet. Use it to wrap around the outside of a bandage (leave the protective part over the sticker) and secure with vet wrap or medical tape.
- **Pair of human shorts with a tie waist** – another strange one, but excellent for keeping doggie tongues off of a back end or leg injury.
- **Human T-shirt** – to keep doggie tongues away from front end or upper leg injuries; to stop them from tripping or boys from peeing on it, tie the waist of the shirt in a knot at their back
- **Towels** – first thing I do when treating an injury is lay a towel at the feet of the dog. I use it as a work station to keep bandages and such clean as I'm working, and to also catch any CS that drips down.
- **Oral syringe** – for flushing out an injury with CS. It gives you the right amount of pressure to clean out any size injury
- **Saline Solution** (NOT Contact Lens Solution) – an excellent alternative to CS and great to clean out a wound; tap water is another alternative but not near as sterile.
- **Suture Scissors** (or cuticle scissors) – for those of us brave enough to remove sutures ourselves. Suture scissors are designed to get at the suture without damaging nearby tissue.
- **Styptic powder** – for those of us who cut our own dogs nails – this powder is an instant clot agent. Note that it does burn if placed on a skin injury so avoid using it on anything but nails that have been quicked. In a pinch, Corn Starch or Flour can be used to stifle a quicked nail.
- **Traumeel** – for a traumatic, but not bleeding, injury to help reduce bruising and swelling; excellent for human and canine!
- **Slippery Elm powder** – this is all natural Pepto Bismol. Easy to give in capsule form or even better if you can get loose powder. Mix ¼ tsp with ½ cup warm water, let gel and use the aforementioned syringe to give to your hound. I use it on myself all the time when I have tummy upsets. Do not give with meds, however, as it coats the stomach and intestines and can reduce absorption of meds.

The list can be endless, but ensuring you are prepared in the event of an emergency or an injury is always a wise move.

Memories of Felix

Many years ago , when my son was young, he decided it would be a great time to adopt another dog. At the time we had a standard poodle, George, of impeccable manner and pedigree as well as being a St John Ambulance Therapy Dog.

Through a quirky set of circumstances I bumped into my curling buddy, Heather Geres, a founder of GLOHW. She had a special needs foster dog that she wondered if I could help with.

It was Felix. He had right aortic arch syndrome. His aorta was choking his throat. He had to be fed kibble bit by bit or by puree.

What the heck – I am a sucker for a challenge – and Felix was adorable.

And there it was – George & Felix – the oddest couple you would ever wish to meet. The calm sophisticate and the goofy sickly Jethro.

And that calm sophisticate took his 'baby brother' under his wing in a big way. I once came home to find once crated Felix in the hall greeting me. And the crate had been broken into from the outside in. In other words, George took his job as a Therapy dog very seriously indeed. [and George had only been crated while being house broken. He hated it so much that he was house broken in a fortnight].

At a Meet and Greet at the Ancaster Fair we have a photo Felix resting his head on George's rump – 'just doing my job thanks – protecting my bro'. We had so many funny moments with Felix – as when my gardener said there must be chink bungs in my backyard but not understanding why the damage as in the circular pattern. Hmmmm. Can we say 'greyhound'? And of course the poodle would have no part of the evil called 'exercise'.

Or the times at the cottage – Felix roaring down to the cottage and shooting straight off the end while George rolled his eyes with the look of OMG, my Mother has adopted an idiot! Or when the minnows were swimming in the shallows and Felix would plunge his head in to see the new and exciting only to pop up 20 seconds later with the look of ' Did you realize you can't breath down there?'

Felix may not have been destined for a great quantity of life, but we certainly gave him quality.
Aren't we all worth that extra effort?

Contributed by Shirlee McEdwards Monteith

How Hamilton Public Library went to the Dogs

By Valerie Goddard

If there are greyhounds at Hamilton Public Library, it must be …. SUMMER!

I'm not sure who has more fun with the library visits; the children, the greyhounds, or the adults. Perhaps everyone takes something away from the experience. It's exciting to walk into an HPL branch filled with expectant faces waiting to see the greyhounds. And the greyhounds apparently know why they are there; their history will be told, then there will be much petting, big hugs and lots of fussing from all those smiling faces intently watching them.

Once the greyhounds are in position at the front of the room, and the children are all seated, the talk starts. One of the first sentences is usually a question for the children, "Does anyone know how long greyhounds have been around?" There are some great guesses then comes the answer from Heather that captures the crowd and officially kicks off the story: Greyhounds were around at the time of the pyramids and the Ancient Egyptians! There are pictures of greyhounds painted in the pyramids! Greyhounds are illustrated in many paintings throughout Britain and Europe as well as depicted in numerous Coats of Arms in Britain. In early days greyhounds were the pets of royalty! The ooowwws and ahhhhs come fast and furious and the rest of the story follows.

The depth of the greyhound history is tailored to the age of the audience, together with the anticipation level of getting together with the greyhounds. The contrast between the children and the greyhounds is always dramatic. The children get more excited as they learn more and the greyhounds who already know the story well, sit down, lay down, and for the most part all fall asleep.

Continued…

How Hamilton Public Library went to the Dogs continued

The children always eager to learn more, ask loads of really good questions. Were the dogs always used for racing? Did they live in castles with the Egyptians and with king and queens? Did they have their own bedrooms in the castles? How fast can the greys run (3 strides and they can be up to 45 miles an hour! WOW…..) And are they treated like royalty at the track??

The talk lasts about ½ hour then the children and parents/ adults, visit with the dogs. Children love the gentle faces; the tall tall legs and the long long tails. They all comment how wonderful the greyhounds are to hug. What are the dogs' names? Why do some have such odd names? Were they famous racers? Adults often ask how the rescue and adoption process works and how the fate of the greyhound has changed in North America and elsewhere with the continued commitment of rescue groups.

The library visits are a great way to bring greyhounds together with the community. Having so many greyhounds in a public forum allows people to see how gentle and personable they are. It's a positive way of getting the message out about greyhounds and share information about the positives of adoption. As well it offers a contact to adoption groups, for those who want to learn more, or wish to adopt a greyhound of their own.

"Greyhound visits to Hamilton Public Library" is the brain child and passion of Heather Geres. Nothing was better to Heather than going out to talk about her beloved greyhounds. Although a close second was seeing all those smiling faces at the library waiting to see the greyhounds! What started as a visit to 1 or 2 branches, soon grew to include as many branches as could be worked into the summer schedule. At the end of the season Heather received numerous thank you notes for her time and her commitment to coming out and educating the children about greyhounds. Donations to continue support of greyhound adoption would be included as well as, "Looking forward to seeing you and the wonderful greyhounds next year." A good solid hint if I've ever heard one!

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Wooden Greyhound Folk Art

From Greyhound Manor Crafts

These items have proven very popular on shelves and on mantle pieces. They also look great on your desk. The crouching hounds can also be used on the top of the door frame to give your room a little greyhound flair.

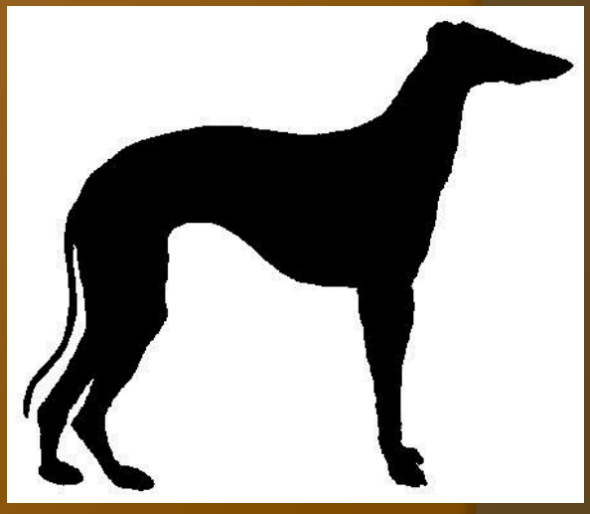
Time

Each crouching hound cut-out takes us about 15 minutes to trace and cut out. Each greyhound on a stick takes us about 45 minutes to construct. These times can be decreased (on a per hound basis) if you"re making several at once. Finishing time is additional and varies depending upon your choice of finish.

Materials Needed

Crouching Hound

• 10" x 4" piece of wood (any thickness)



Greyhound on a Stick

• 10" x 3" piece of wood (at least 3/4" thick)
• 8" length of 1/2" dowel
• 5" x 5" piece of wood for base (at least 3/4" thick)
• Drill and 1/2" bit
• Wood glue

Both

• Carbon or graphite paper for tracing
• Sandpaper
• Scroll saw or jigsaw
• Paint or wood stain and polyurethane

Step 1 – Make Pattern

Use a photocopier to enlarge template to appropriate size. Our hounds are usually about eight inches across. We use these patterns so much that we have made plastic and wooden templates of the most popular sizes.

Step 2 – Trace Pattern Onto Wood

Using carbon or graphite paper, trace the pattern onto the wood. If you don"t have carbon paper, try this trick. Gently rub a soft pencil over the back of the pattern, completely covering the lines of the pattern. (You"ll have to hold the pattern up to the light to do this.) Then trace the pattern onto the wood. The lines will be fainter than if you used real carbon paper, but you"ll be able to see them.

Continued…

Wooden Greyhound Folk Art continued

Step 3 – Cut Out Hound

Using a scroll saw or jigsaw, carefully cut out the hound shape. The tail area will be the hardest part. Watch your fingers here!

Step 4 – Sand Hound

Using sandpaper, carefully remove the rough edges from the hound. You should also fully sand the flat parts of the hound.

Step 5 – Make Base (skip for Crouching Hound)

Cut the 5" square of wood for the base. If desired, use a router to put a nice edge on the square. On the top of the base, draw lines diagonally from corner to corner to form a large X. The center of this X will be the center of the hole for the dowel. Use a drill and a 1/2" bit to drill a hole at least 3/8" deep. Try not to go all the way through the base. Sand the finished base.

Step 6 – Drill Hole (skip for Crouching Hound)

Carefully make a mark on the bottom of the hound in the center of the chest. Drill a 1/2" hole 3/8" deep to accept the dowel.

Step 7 – Stain or Paint All Parts

Apply wood stain or paint to all parts of your project. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and drying times.

Step 8 – Assemble (skip for Crouching Hound)

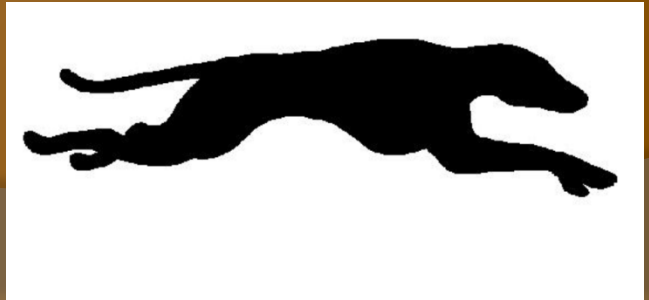
First, dry-fit the pieces to make sure they fit well. If necessary, trim the dowel to the desired height for the hound. Carefully brush wood glue in the holes in the base and hound. Brush wood glue on the ends of the dowels. Assemble the three pieces. Allow the glue to dry fully.

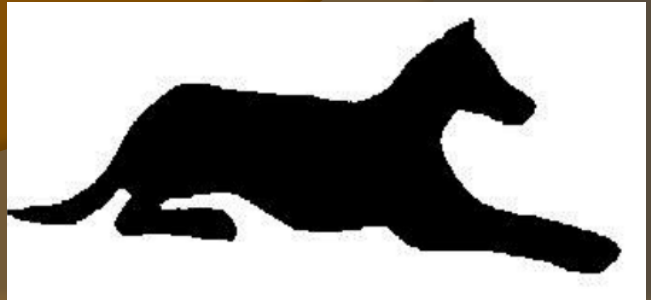
Step 9 – Apply Polyurethane

Brush all exposed surfaces with polyurethane. We have the best results with satin finish, water-based polyurethane. Allow to dry completely.

Other Variations

We have also done the crouching greyhound on a base using two 1/4" dowels on a 3" x 8" rectangular base. These are very nice on a desk. To construct that, follow the basic instructions above, but adjust the placement of the holes to allow for two dowels, one near the front legs and one near the back.





Fast Food

Notes for the Chef - Make sure to take into account any allergies that your hound may have to specific ingredients. You will want to avoid adding any ingredient that you know that your hound has reacted poorly to in the past. If you are experimenting with new flavors, feed in a small amount to see how your pup reacts.

Our Main Course Pick of the Season

Chicken Casserole

This recipe uses chicken, which is a good source of protein, and lots of vegetables to create a flavorful mix. Green beans help your dog feel full and vegetables promote a healthy intestinal tract.

Ingredients

4 chicken breasts
1/2 cup of green beans, chopped
1/2 cup of carrots, chopped
1/2 cup of broccoli, chopped
1/2 cup rolled oats.
4 cups of low-salt chicken broth

Directions

Remove excess fat from the chicken breasts and cut the breasts into small nickel-sized chunks.
Cook the chicken breasts in a non-stick skillet over medium heat until no longer pink.
Add the chicken, vegetables, rolled oats, and chicken broth to a large pot and cook over medium heat until the carrots are tender – about 15 minutes.
Allow to cool before serving.
Store leftover casserole portions in the fridge for up to five days.

Pro Tip: You can use a small amount of olive oil to fry the chicken if you are having trouble keeping the chicken breasts from sticking to the skillet.

And now for a Special Treat

Frozen Peanut Butter Yogurt Dog Treats

The perfect snack to cool your pet down after a vigorous play session

Ingredients

32 ounces vanilla yogurt
1 cup peanut butter

Directions

1. Melt the peanut butter in a microwave safe bowl
2. Combine the yogurt and melted peanut butter
3. Pour the mixture into cupcake papers
4. Place in the freezer

Source: www.moneycrashers.com/homemade-dog-food-treat-recipes

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News from…

By Sonya Matheson

Paige takes the Plunge

Dog Days of Summer are Here!

It seems only yesterday that the ice and snow kept us from enjoying our backyards and dog parks – but as we plunge full-speed ahead into the month of August, After the Track has been extremely busy planning and attending fundraising events all over the GTA.

Between our annual yard sale, our appearance at Dog Days of Scugog, and our 2nd annual Greyt Night at the Drive In, we have been able to catch up with a lot of our foster alumni from years past. We've also made some GREYT new friends along the way! With your support, After the Track has placed 17 greyhounds into happy, forever homes since March 2014, and our momentum is still going strong. With several adoptions pending before the end of July, and 5 months to go in 2014, we're hoping to make this another record-breaking year. There is also some buzz about bringing in some Spanish galgos this October, so stay tuned for more news on that!

Also, join us online starting August 10th through the 17th for our first ever online auction. We have some fantastic prizes, including a few special SURPRISE donations that you won't be able to resist! Watch our Facebook page for announcements.

Where can you find After the Track Greyhound Adoption in the coming months?

Come out and say "Hi!" at any of the below participating events!

Fri – Sun, August 1st through 3rd – The Greyt Escape – Kennels to Kouches, 1 Stone St. South, Wheeling, WV
Saturday, September 6th – After the Track Bake Sale at Pet Valu, 2379 Highway #2, Bowmanville, ON
Sunday, September 7th – New'Bark'et –Lion's Park, 424 D'Arcy Street, Newmarket, ON
Sat – Sun, October 4th – 5th - Adoption Days, Pet Valu 6 Points Plaza, 3843 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, ON

Have a safe and happy summer!

Theo, riding the waves in New Brunswick!

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News from... Greyhound Supporters of the NCR

Exerpt from The GSNCR Greyhound Gazette

Annual GSNCR Picnic Recap

The Greyhound Supporters celebrated another Annual Picnic on June 7th and it was a lovely day for hounds and humans alike. We were very happy to see the return of many old friends and welcome new additions to our greyhound family this year. Just look at all those hounds! The photos were courtesy of the wonderful Alissa Albert, who joined us again this year to work her photography magic with the hounds.

This fantastic event would not be possible without our sponsors and volunteers. Many thanks to you for helping make our annual picnic a success, we raised over $1000! A special thank you to Mari-anne Buck, who once again allowed us the use of her beautiful property for the event, there were many happy pups who took advantage of the off-leash play area!

If I Didn't Have a Dog…

I could walk barefoot around the yard in safety.
My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.
All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture and cars would be hair free.
When the doorbell rings, my home wouldn't sound like a kennel.
When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through all the fuzzy bodies who beat me there.
I could sit on the couch and my bed any way I wanted, without having to take into consideration how much several fur bodies need to get comfortable.
I would have enough money, and no guilt, to go on a real vacation.
I would not be on a first name basis with 6 veterinarians, as I put their yet unborn grandkids through college.
The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: out, sit, down, come, no, stay, and leave it alone.
My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates and makeshift barriers.
I would not talk baby talk like eat your din din or yummy yummy for the tummy.
My house would not look like a day care centre with toys everywhere.
My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, treats and an extra leash.
I would not have to spells the words B-A-L-L, W-A-L-K, T-R-E-A-T, O-U-T, G-O, R-I-D-E, or C-O-O-K-I-E.
I would not have as many leaves inside my house as outside.
I would not look strangely at people who think having ONE dog ties them down too much.
I'd look forward to spring and the rainy season instead of dreading them as mud season.
I would not have to answer the question 'why do you have so many animals?' from people who will never know the joy of being loved unconditionally by the closest thing to an angel they will ever encounter.
How EMPTY my life would be!