

Happy Holidays

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Holiday Party & Year End Fundraiser

Our holiday and greyhound ornament decorating party is on Tuesday, December 13th. Adam Loeffel, owner of Seize the Clay, is generously donating facilities and unpainted greyhound ornaments for us to decorate at the party.

Last year, we had a lot of families come. Both the kids and the adults enjoyed decorating the ornaments. In fact, it was such a hit that we ran out of greyhound ornaments, so we are making a little extra this year.



We are trying something new this year -- a potluck dinner. We have a sign-up sheet with the following food categories:

Cut up vegetables and dip

Run With It!

December 2011

Snow came early this year! The cold weather reminds us that our greyhounds may need extra protection in the colder weather. See Renée's suggestions for inexpensive winter coats in the article below.

This newsletter is jammed packed with things that we were not able to include in October and November. There are some fun photos; a story on our very own Cover Girl, Sylvie; and more information on our upcoming Holiday Party. Hope you enjoy these!

A very special thank you to the Arkansas Kennel Association (AKA), a group of 17 kennels that race at Southland Park Gaming & Racing. For the second year, AKA has sponsored "Paws for a Cause," and a dinner and competition to benefit 10 area non-profits in West Memphis and Marion, AR. The non-profits (including MSGAO) "bet" on greyhound races, and received donations from AKA based upon the number of races they "won." This year, MSGAO won a third place prize of \$3,500! THANK YOU, AKA!!

I hope this season doesn't get too crazy for you. See you at the Holiday Party!

Vicki Cohen
Director

Cut up fruit
Sandwich platter
Chips and dip
Desserts
Drinks

If you are able to bring something, please email Renée Dingler at renee.dingler@bellsouth.net.

If you are not able to bring something, PLEASE COME ANYWAY!

We will have a limited number of 2012 Greyhound Calendars (\$12) & MSGAO t-shirts (\$12) also available for sale at the party.

Date: Tues., Dec. 13th
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Seize the Clay
3084 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38111
(901)323-2991

Cost: \$10 per person (\$5 for additional greyhound ornaments)

Please bring cash or checks. We are not able to take credit cards. Also, you can pay at the door.

(This is a people-only party. No greyhounds please.)

Greyhound Coats by Mardy Fones



Riley models one of Mardy's greyhound coats.

Cost: \$41.10 including shipping



(Picture courtesy of Rachel Hogue)

MSGAO is presented with a \$3,500 check from the Arkansas Kennel Association for Paws for a Cause. Left to right: Kennel owners, Darren Henry, Mike Harris, and Robert Thorne; MSGAO Director, Vicki Cohen; and MSGAO Board Member, Kathy Parson.

Greyhounds & Cold Weather

Typically, greyhounds are lean athletes, which mean they may have very little body fat and possibly no belly fur. Their fur coats will thicken with the winter weather, but we need to be mindful of them when we take them for walks or other outings. My personal rule-of-thumb that when the temperature outside is near or below 32 degrees, our two boys wear warm coats on their walks.

Custom-made greyhound coats are very nice... and can be VERY expensive! However, Mardy Fones in Nashville has nice, handmade greyhound coats for an extremely reasonable price: \$41.10 including shipping. The coats have water-resistant shells with fleece linings and an attached fleece snood (a snood is like a scarf for your grey's long neck). MSGAO has a sample coat and measurements needed to order a coat. A portion of the proceeds benefits Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) Nashville. (See contact information at left.)

If the night-time temp is below freezing, my greys wear "pajamas" to keep warm at night (because we keep our house cold). This seems extreme, but when I pull out their "pj's," they come running!

Mardy Fones
1111 Biltmore Drive
Nashville, TN 37204
615-297-2033

Email:
mafones@comcast.net

(Note from Renee: I've been using these coats during the rainy weather to get my hounds to go outside with great success!!)



Lazer in his pajamas

Thanks to Arkansas Kennel Association & Paws for a Cause!



(Picture courtesy of Rachel Hogue)
MSGAO took 3rd place in the Paws for a Cause competition.

The boys "pajamas" will also work for outdoor coats. The "pajamas" are inexpensive men's fleece vests (ladies' sizes for smaller greys). Cost: under \$10 (I think I got one for \$5).

To put it on, turn the vest upside down, put your grey's front paws go through the armholes, and zip it up the back. If you or someone you know is handy with a sewing machine, take a big tuck along the belly to make it fit better around the midriff. You can either zip it all the way up around the neck, or leave it open a little.

To find out what size vest your greyhound needs, measure the largest part of his/her chest. Then compare the measurement with the measurement of the vest. Our large male (Riley) wears a men's large vest. Our smaller male (Lazer) wears a ladies' medium vest.

If you use this to walk your greyhound, be sure to roll up the back end for boys (so they don't end up marking the vest instead of the tree!).

Another way to keep your greyhound warm at night is to put an inexpensive fleece blanket over their beds. You can get lap blankets at Walmart or Walgreens for \$7 or less. Your greyhound may even let you cover them up at night with one of these light-weight blankets.

Hopefully, these inexpensive tips will keep your greys warm without draining your wallet!

Renée Dingler

Greyt Pictures!

Check out this whippet Halloween costume!

MSGAO's Cover Girl!

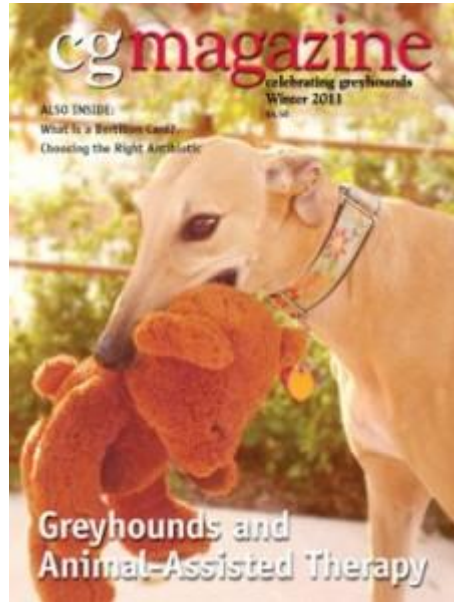


Picture posted on Facebook
(photographer unknown)

And look at the "greyt" picture taken
by Dave & Barb Williams in England!



Picture courtesy of Dave Williams



Our own Sylvie, adopted by Paula Pilgrim, is the cover girl on the upcoming issue of CG Magazine. You can see the cover featured on CG Magazine's Facebook page at the following link. Sylvie will be the page's identifying icon until the next issue rolls around!

Make sure you subscribe so you can read Paula's story about working with Sylvie as a therapy hound with Youth Villages - a very interesting and moving tale. (If you don't subscribe to CG Magazine, we highly recommend it. Magazine content is not posted online. Also, CG Magazine is a not-for-profit organization.)

You can subscribe online at this link: www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine

Sylvie not only is a therapy hound but also is active on the meet and greet circuit. She is well-known in her hometown for taking her favorite toy on walks. The local newspaper has run pictures of photogenic Sylvie walking with her bear. We're hoping she will agree to give some "paw-tographs" when she makes her next meet and greet appearance!

Contributor: Rachel Hogue

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