

**For the
Greyhounds!**

We have a new website design! Check out the new features, including an online application function and a photo gallery.

The current newsletter can also be found on the new website. To save money, hard copies of the newsletter will only be mailed by request.

Newsletter for



**Volume 4, Issue 1
March, 2009**

WHAT TO BUY THE GREYHOUND WHO HAS EVERYTHING

Might we suggest a gas fireplace insert? Available in a variety of colors to match your dog's coat as well as your room décor, this unit warms our tummies and saves energy (ours). Blowers fill the room with warmth even on the chilliest of days after a romp in the snow. Visions of sugarplum biscuits dance in our head as we drift off to a mid-winter's nap. Chew bones come and chew bones go, so hounds ask your owners for the gift that keeps on giving. And remember, you are worth it!

Tootsie & Bunnie, Spokesdogs

About NE Ohio Greyhound Rescue, Inc.

We are a small rescue dedicated to fostering retired racing greyhounds and preparing them for their new life as cherished pets. We give each of our foster greyhounds some basic obedience training and provide them with premium food and supplements and top-notch veterinary services while they are in our care. Once they are adopted, we provide as much or as little support as their new family requests.

NE Ohio Greyhound Rescue, Inc., is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (3) © of the IRS code. All donations and mileage are tax deductible.

Visit us at www.neogreyrescue.petfinder.com

Contact us at: adoptagrey@ncweb.com

440-259-0049



Ear Infections in Greyhounds

**By: Amy Pawling, DVM
Banfield, The Pet Hospital of Willoughby**

Ear infections are a common health problem in Greyhounds and can lead to chronic problems such as discomfort, hearing loss and even ear drum rupture if not diagnosed and treated in a timely manner. Therefore, it is important to have your Greyhound's ears examined regularly by a veterinarian to look for any signs of infection.

The following is a list of commonly asked questions and answers about ear infections:

Q. What causes an ear infection?

A. There are 2 main types of ear infections: **bacterial** and **fungal (yeast)**. The bacteria and yeast are normally present in small numbers in the ear canal. However, when the ear canal becomes wet or damaged, the bacteria and yeast start to multiply and cause an infection. Ways that the ears become wet or damaged include:

- water accumulation in the ear from bathing, swimming, rain, or snow
- Poor hygiene, unsanitary living conditions, and humidity (this is a major cause of ear infections in Greyhounds just rescued from the track)
- Allergies to food or environment
- Ear mites (small parasites that live in the ear canal, usually obtained through exposure to an infected animal)
- Foreign object in ear canal (plant material, Q-tip, etc)

Q. How do I know if my Greyhound has an ear infection?

A. Some dogs will exhibit symptoms such as head shaking or scratching at their ears. You may notice a large amount of dark brown wax in the ear canals or a foul odor coming from the ears.

*It is important to note, however, that some Greyhounds do not exhibit any of these signs and the infection may be very deep in the ear

canal where you cannot see it. This is why it is important to have your Greyhound's ears examined by a veterinarian with an otoscope. This is a special instrument that can be inserted down into the ear canal to look for evidence of infection. Your veterinarian can also obtain a sample from the ear canal and either look at it under the microscope or perform a culture to determine the type and severity of the infection. This is important in order to be able to treat the infection properly.

Q. How is an ear infection treated?

A. The bacterial and fungal infections can be treated with medicated drops or ointment that is applied to the ear canal twice daily for about 2 weeks. It is important to use an ear cleaning solution to remove excess debris from the ears prior to medicating them. Depending on the severity of the infection, it may be necessary to do oral medications as well. It is very important to use all medications as instructed by your veterinarian and have the ears rechecked after treatment to ensure that the infection is completely resolved. It is also important to work with your veterinarian to determine what caused the ear infection (i.e. moisture, poor hygiene, allergies, ear mites) in order to prevent recurrence.

Q. How can I prevent my Greyhound from getting an ear infection?

A. In order to prevent an infection, it is important to try and determine the underlying cause.

- Moisture accumulation and poor hygiene can be prevented by using an ear cleaning and drying solution on a regular basis (at least once a week or anytime water may have entered the ear canal). You can obtain a cleaning solution and instructions for use from your veterinarian.
- Allergies to food can be eliminated by putting your Greyhound on a hypoallergenic diet as prescribed by your veterinarian. Environmental allergies can be managed in several ways including oral medications, medicated shampoos/sprays, or allergy

injections. An allergy test can be performed on your Greyhound to determine what the offending allergens are.

- Ear mites are treated with a medicated eardrop and can be prevented by keeping your Greyhound away from other animals that are infected with this parasite.
- Foreign objects in the ears are prevented by routine ear exams, cleaning (do not use Q-tips as they can break off deep in the ear canal), and monitoring Greyhounds when outside or around small children.

As with most medical conditions, prevention of ear infections is best. However, if an infection occurs, early detection and treatment will most likely save your Greyhound from discomfort and permanent damage to their ears.

Editor's Note: *Be especially careful in rainy and snowy weather. Moisture can seep into the ear canal and a yeast infection can develop quickly. Greyhounds with yeast infections often show no obvious symptoms.*

The Original Chicken and Rice ProPlan is back!

After receiving numerous calls from long-time customers, Purina has started making and distributing the Original Chicken and Rice formula in 37.5-pound bags.

The bags have a new look and new name: **All Life Stages**. These bags can be found next to the Purina Performance brands.

If you switched to the Shredded Blends, you may find that you need to feed more to maintain your greyhound's weight. One suggestion is to mix in a bag of the Original formula at a ratio of 1 part Original to 3 parts Shredded. We have found that this works well for our dogs.

And, remember ...

Save those weight circles!

Send them to us when you have a bunch and we can use them for discounts off all ProPlan products.



Adopting Mr. Giggles

By Tammy Lavish

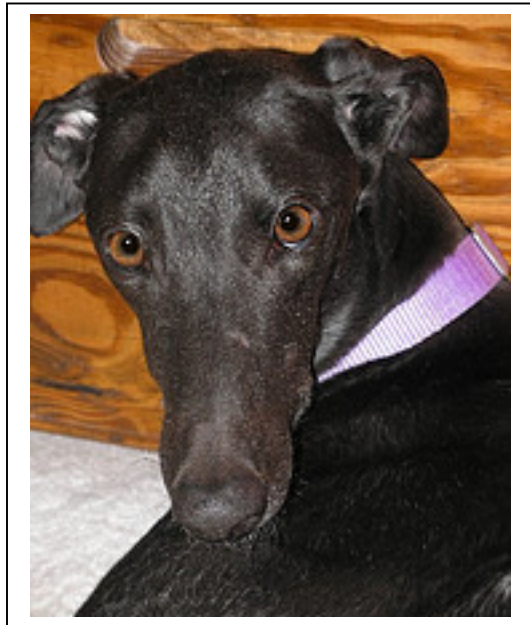
Losing a pet is always a very difficult experience. When I lost my first greyhound, Perfect, this past February I was distraught. Not only was I hurting but I was concerned that my other greyhound, Lizzie, would not be happy without her brother. I began perusing local adoption websites and I found myself starring at the face of a precious boy named Mr. Giggles. Uncertain as to whether I was ready to adopt so soon, I emailed NE Ohio Greyhound Rescue, Inc. and inquired about Mr. Giggles. All of my hesitations were removed the moment I received my reply.

The following weekend I drove to meet Giggles and it was love at first sight. I spent almost the entire afternoon on the floor of a Tractor Supply Company! The adoption process began from there. That evening I filled out the online application and the following afternoon all of my references received their calls. By Monday my vet spoke on my behalf and by the following weekend Mr. Giggles arrived.

I was amazed by the thoroughness of NEOGR's adoption process. Having adopted two greyhounds in the past, I thought the process was relatively short and uninvolved. That was not the case when adopting from NEOGR. There was as much time spent choosing the right owner as I spent choosing my new dog. NEOGR truly works to find lifetime owners for all of their dogs and has an obvious love for these four-legged blessings. Mr. Giggles, now called Grady, has become an integral part of our family and we couldn't be happier. Thank you NEOGR for making this a memorable experience.

A Special Needs Girl ... Kathy

If you've been watching our website, you may have noticed that Kathy is still available for adoption. She's a beautiful girl that had a rough start in life. She needs a quiet home where she can feel safe, secure and loved.



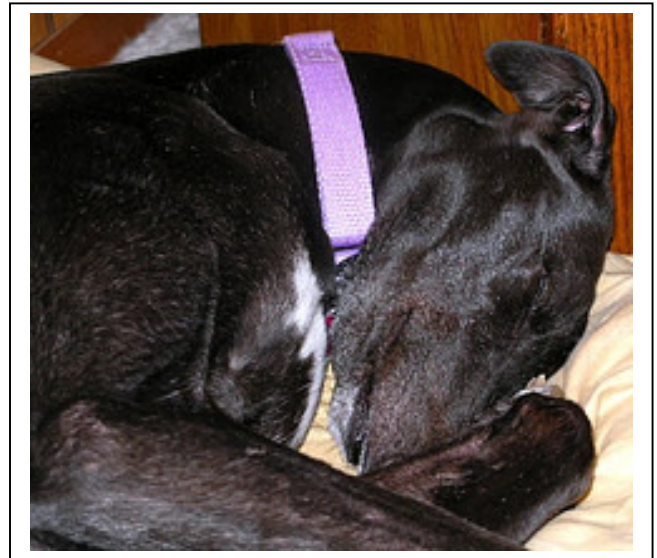
Kathy came to us from Florida. When she was rescued from the track, she had a serious staph infection that covered most of her back and legs. While she was being treated for the staph infection, she developed a problem with her blood platelets and her liver enzymes skyrocketed. Luckily, this problem was caught in time and after 3 months recuperating in Florida, Kathy was healthy enough to make the trip to Ohio.

When Kathy first came to us, she was shy and very skittish, especially of noises. We tried for several weeks to desensitize her to noise and calm her fears. But, she was still very nervous and uncomfortable. We decided, with the help of our vet, to put Kathy on a low dose of anti-anxiety medication. After about a week, we saw a marked improvement in her fears and Kathy finally started to relax.

Kathy has been doing very well in our home, and she's welcome to stay as long as she needs to. She's playful, happy and loves to eat! She's healthy,

her blood tests are back to normal and she's got a beautiful, shiny coat.

Kathy is still shy around strangers at first, and taking her to Meet and Greets is too stressful for her. But, Kathy would make a wonderful companion for someone who can see her through to her true personality. Kathy loves her crate and finds comfort there. She loves to lie on soft dog beds and bask in the sunshine. Surprisingly, Kathy also likes snow and romps and plays with the freshly fallen flakes.



The "Special" in Special Needs Dogs

Over the years, NE Ohio Greyhound Rescue, Inc. has taken in a number of special needs dogs with medical and/or behavioral issues.

Some have found homes with special families; others have stayed with us and have been adopted as our own. Each special needs dog has touched our lives and taught us valuable lessons about unconditional love, patience and understanding. Our personal dogs now include two seniors (Ernie and Taylor) and two special needs dogs (Rocky and Stone), along with a little beagle named Manda, and our lives have been so enriched by them all.

If you think you can provide a home for Kathy or another special needs or senior dog, give us a call.