

## Message From Rory

I'm venturing out again from the safe confines of the Goree' compound here in Glendale AZ to say thank you to the volunteers of GPA. I will be at the following events to wrap up 2010 and if you can attend, please stop by as I'd love to meet you and also I'm sure the chapters would love to have you in attendance.

Rory

**GPA-Indianapolis 9TH Annual Picnic  
Sunday September 12, 2010  
[www.gpaindy.org/events.html#picnic](http://www.gpaindy.org/events.html#picnic)**

**GPA-New Mexico – Fiesta and Reunion  
Picnic, Saturday Sept 18, 2010  
[www.gpa-nm.org/picnic.php](http://www.gpa-nm.org/picnic.php)**

### **Dewey – Greyhounds Reach the Beach**

I will be officiating the Bell Ceremony, a remembrance of those greyhounds who are no longer at our side. Please check the Dewey Vendor Directory for time and location.

### **GPA-Southern Nevada - Annual Picnic In The Park Reunion, Saturday October 23, 2010**

Actually, I'll be playing go-fer for my wife, as she has been invited to be a vendor at the picnic, but I'm sure she'll let me have a couple of breaks during the day.

I'm currently planning my 2011 schedule so if you would like to have me in attendance, contact me at [rory.goree@yahoo.com](mailto:rory.goree@yahoo.com) and we can discuss. It's always revitalizing to be able to meet the wonderful volunteers of GPA!



**Greyhound Pets of America  
P.O. Box 3693  
Springfield, MO 65808**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED**

# GPA Communique

greyhoundpets.org  
Greyhound Pets of America National Organization Fall 2010

## New GPA National Website Is Coming Soon

The GPA National website is getting a facelift, and we hope to incorporate a lot of your group accomplishments on it. MANY THANKS to all who submitted pics for the site. We had a remarkable response, with literally hundreds of submissions. To keep things interesting, we are going to create several Flash shows that will be rotated on the home page on a monthly basis, as well as sprinkling some of the pictures throughout the entire website...so please inform your adopters to keep a close check once the site is up and running. You never know when or where one of your adopted greys will show up! Here's the header for the new national website! We'll be including flash shows, videos and more bells and whistles. We hope to have this up and running by the end of October!



## GPA National Meeting January 14, 2011

You can post this information in your newsletters, on your websites and/or email it out to all your chapter's adopters.

The 2011 GPA National Meeting will be held in Orlando, FL all day Friday Jan. 14, 2011 (starting at 8 AM EST) at the Ramada Orlando Celebration Resort and Convention Center located at 6375 W. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy., Kissimmee, FL 34747. Website is [www.RamadaOrlandoCelebration.com](http://www.RamadaOrlandoCelebration.com). Direct phone is 407-490-5844.

You may also want to plan to attend the 27th International Canine Sports Medicine Symposium Jan. 15-16, 2011 at the Sarasota Room in the Gaylord Palms Hotel, Orlando, FL. Registration fee for this is

\$85 through the University of FL. Registering for this will not open until probably September. I will send this information out when it is available. There will be shuttles to the Gaylord Palms to catch at the Radisson next door to the Ramada. Attending the Sports Medicine Symposium also allows you to visit the North American Veterinary Conference exhibitor hall which is open Sun. Jan. 16 through Wed. Jan. 19, 3 PM. See [www.tnavc.org](http://www.tnavc.org) about exhibitors.

You may also want to plan on other activities in the Orlando area, even taking in the new Harry Potter World at Universal Orlando. The Sanford Orlando Kennel Club is located in Longwood, FL as well. See [www.sanfordorlandokc.com/adopt-greyhound.php](http://www.sanfordorlandokc.com/adopt-greyhound.php)

Our Ramada room rate is \$79 for a single or double occupancy. The special room rates will be available for three days pre and post of the event dates. We blocked 25 rooms for the nights of Jan. 13 & Jan. 14. You can make reservations starting Tues. July 13, 2010 by calling 1-877-467-5786 and referring to group Greyhound Pets of America. The cut-off date for accepting reservations for this room block is Thurs., Dec. 30, 2010, 5 PM EST. If many of you register soon, we can increase the block of rooms if available!



The GPA National meeting will be an important meeting! Please plan to attend or send a delegate from your chapter. You cannot benefit from GPA National without attending the national meetings! If your chapter needs financial assistance to send a delegate, please contact Alane Shultz, [agreyhound@mchsi.com](mailto:agreyhound@mchsi.com) regarding that.

# Urethral Spasms, Dysuria, or "Tying Up"

By Dr. Carol Macherey, DVM

The recent experience of an adopter has prompted me to think I should post about this problem. Most of you will never encounter it, but if you do, you need to have some basic information.

Greyhounds are special - we all know that. Yet another way they differ from most other breeds is they have a greater predisposition to urethral spasms.

**What's that??** The urethra is the small tube that empties urine from the bladder... in male dogs, it travels around the back of the hip... through the penis... and to the outside. In female dogs, the urethra is shorter and empties in a straight line through the vulva. Most cases of urethral spasms seem to involve males.

**What happens?** The urethra, and the neck of the bladder, function with tiny "smooth" muscles. As with any muscle, these muscles can "spasm". When that happens, the urethra narrows and urine flow is very difficult. The spasm is also painful.

**Causes** - episodes seem to be triggered by stress of some sort. This can be physical or just anxiety. Racing greyhounds can suffer severe episodes after a strenuous race. Pet greyhounds can have episodes after the stress of hospitalization, over-exercising, or more subtle stresses unique to them.

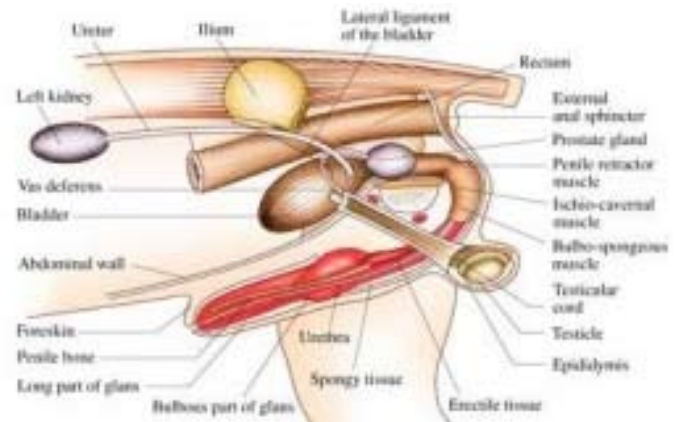
**What you see** - if you watch your greyhound pass urine, you'll quickly recognize there's a problem. Each greyhound reacts a little differently, but you may see:

- Lengthy posturing to urinate - as long as 10 minutes without moving
- Urine drips and spurts instead of flowing in a normal stream
- Excessive licking at the tip of the penis or groin area
- Decreased appetite
- Reluctance to move or exercise
- Increased need to "go out"
- Restlessness due to discomfort

**What do you do** - seek help if this continues beyond a few voidings. Many greyhounds can "self-cure" mild episodes that affect only a few urinations.

You may never realize it even happened. A protracted episode will get your attention, though. See your vet.

**Diagnosis** - there are other causes of dysuria, and any vet must rule out a bladder infection, bladder stones, or obstruction. A urinalysis and an x-ray are appropriate. Passing a urinary catheter without difficulty should eliminate an obstruction problem. A diagnosis of urethral spasm can reasonably be made, I believe, if these tests are normal, and it's a greyhound.



**Treatment** - muscle relaxants are indicated. There are 2 that I'm familiar with:

- Prazosin dosed at 1 mg per 30 lbs, every 8 hours. This medication is available at most pharmacies and can be prescribed and started quickly.
- Phenoxybenzamine (Dibenzylamine) 10 mg every 12 hours. This might have to be ordered through a compounding pharmacy, causing some delay, but probably works a little quicker. Nice to have on hand with chronic dogs.

Once oral medication is started, some improvement should be seen within 24 hrs. It can take as long as 2 weeks for a severe episode to resolve. Medication should be continued until the urine stream is normal, and then gradually tapered. Severely affected dogs may need catheterization daily to empty the bladder until the medication starts to work.

**Prevention** - there are prevention plans in the literature and the internet, and if this is a recurring problem for your greyhound, they can be tried. None are 100% effective. I've seen recommendations to give blueberries and apple cider vinegar - antioxidants and acidifiers. If your hound is prone to the problem, it would be best to keep the appropriate medication on hand to give at the earliest signs of a recurrence.

# Non-Profit Organization Transparency

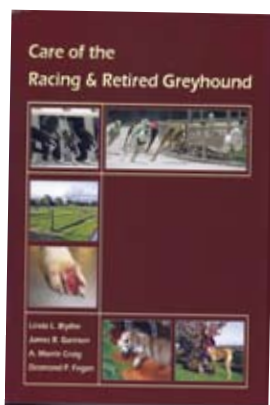
Unfortunately, many people do not trust some nonprofits to use their donations wisely. By being completely transparent about your finances, you can make sure potential donors don't have any reason to distrust your organization.

Your IRS form 990 tax return is a public document. It is available to the public through the IRS, and on websites such as [GuideStar.org](http://www.guidestar.org). You must have a copy available for people who inquire. Why not make it easy to find by posting it on your website as well?

In addition to your 990, put contact information on your site such as your officers and/or your board of directors. You might also put a summary of the most recent board activity and decisions made.

## Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound

The textbook, Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound, is now available at a special rate to adoption groups. Retail cost is \$40 per softbound, \$65 for hardbound. If your chapter is interested in selling the books at an upcoming gathering or through your membership, AGC will make them available to your organization for \$30 and \$55 respectively. Minimum of 5 books ordered by a single chapter is required (NGA will cover shipping expense for the books to you). If you're interested in doing this, please contact Gary Guccione at 785-263-4660 or email is [garyg@ngagreyhounds.com](mailto:garyg@ngagreyhounds.com).



## In The Pursuit of Happiness

This past week a friend and 12 year volunteer for Arizona Adopt A Greyhound passed away. Sharon Diebel was a wonderful volunteer and a courageous fighter. She battled Chordoma brain tumor for 6 years. Even though she had to battle tumors she was always up to assisting her adoption group, helping a new adopter and volunteering for a support group that assisted people with brain tumors. And if a greyhound in the Phoenix area went missing, Sharon was one of the first people out looking for it.

We all go thorough life hoping to find and enjoy happiness. As I reflect on the life of Sharon I can't help but be reminded of how many times she made me laugh, and even when she had battles of her own to fight, the people around her always knew they could count on her for a smile and laugh.

Sharon found happiness by not only trying to be the best she could be, but by bringing happiness to those around her.

I firmly believe that many of the successes she succeeded with in greyhound adoption were due to her pursuit of happiness which included bringing all her friends and family along for the ride.

Somewhere 8 bells are ringing as greyhounds dance at the sight of one who gave so much, Fair winds and following seas Sharon, may your journey be swift and your troubles trail behind you.

Rory

## Born to Run: Racing Greyhound, from Competitor to Companion

In chronicling his travels to many of America's dog tracks, Greyhound owner and adoption advocate Ryan H. Reed shatters misconceptions about the controversial sport of Greyhound racing. Reed uncovers a world of magnificent canine athletes and their devoted owners and trainers. With amazing color photographs of the dogs in action, Born to Run gives readers a behind-the-scenes look at the daily activities of breeding kennels, racetracks, and adoption centers, detailing the lives of racing Greyhounds from puppyhood to their competitive careers to their lives as cherished pets after retirement.

Ryan Reed was born in Kennewick, Washington in 1968. Ryan adopted his first retired racer from Greyhound Pets of America's Idaho Chapter (now Greyhound Pets, Incorporated). Ryan is a contributor to The Greyhound Review – the official publication of the National Greyhound Association – and was a contributor to the short-lived publication, The Racing Greyhound Insider. Ryan continues to be an advocate for the sport of greyhound racing and adoption.



# Ohio State University Greyhound Health and Wellness Program

The Ohio State University Greyhound Health and Wellness Program (OSUGHWP), has a new and improved website that offers membership opportunities for veterinarians and Greyhound/sighthound owners, adopters, trainers, and other individuals interested in these breeds.

## Your membership will entitle you to:

1. Access to all the current information on Greyhound Health and Medicine, frequently asked questions, and sources for the Greyhound community.
2. Downloading all the Greyhound Health and Wellness Program (GHWP) Research publications.
3. Downloading and receiving the GHWP quarterly newsletter.
4. Access to the GHWP memorial Website.
5. Access to the online consultation service.
6. Receive injectable chemotherapy at no cost for cancer patients.

## Your membership dollars enable us to:

1. Support health studies in Greyhounds and other sighthounds.
2. Continue to provide chemotherapy at no cost for retired racers.
3. Provide financial support to owners who cannot afford healthcare for their hounds if their dogs are evaluated/treated at the Ohio State University (OSU).
4. Organize the OSU Annual Greyhound/Sighthound Conference.
5. Publish and disseminate current information on Greyhound/Sighthound health care.

## Interested in becoming a member?

To become a member, simply register for an account at <https://greyhound.osu.edu/secure/index.cfm?action=register> and follow the prompts for submit payment of your annual membership dues.

## Look for us on Facebook too!

[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=139118706120024](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=139118706120024)



COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE

## Greyhound Health and Wellness Program

<https://greyhound.osu.edu/>

**The Ohio State University  
Veterinary Medical Center  
601 Vernon L. Tharp Street  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614-247-6757  
614-247- 8490**

## Rewards Fundraising with USBones.com

Need Money? Join up with the Rewards Fundraising program with USBones.com. They donate 25% of the gross pet products that were purchased in your chapter's name. They pay out quarterly. For example, the 2nd quarter of 2010, approximately \$403.00 was sold for GPA - Springfield, MO. We received a check for \$101. We have their link on our website. This is EASY money! Contact Korey McWilliams, Fundraising Program Director at [korey@usbones.com](mailto:korey@usbones.com) or phone 773-451-2320. Their website is [www.usbones.com](http://www.usbones.com).



[USBONES.com](http://USBONES.com)

# 2011 Celebrating Greyhounds Calendars

Submit your photo for the 2012 Celebrating Greyhound Calendars Now -

## Here's how:

Please include your name and location, your dog's name, and your adoption group's name and location.

Digital photos should be on a CD with printouts clearly marked with the photo name/number. Be sure your full name is on printouts and the CD in case they get separated.

If you send in actual photo prints, the information should be printed on tape or a label before applying it to the back of the photo.

Photo selection is typically done by a group of volunteers in early April for the following year. We receive hundreds of photos, so please limit submissions to your very best shots.

## Send to:

**The Greyhound Project Inc.**  
**Attn: Calendar Photos**  
**P.O. Box 5239**  
**Framingham, MA 01701**

Photos that are not used in the calendar are passed along to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine and may appear in a future issue. Sorry, but we are not able to return photos.

## Salute To Millie Merritt and Kathy Morrill

By Martha Krohberger

GPA Massachusetts is one of the founding chapters of Greyhound Pets of America and two of the original members are still very active in our organization. They are our Treasurer, Millie Merritt and President, Kathy Morrill.

Millie has been active in Greyhound Adoption since 1982. She started adopting out greyhounds as a founding member of New England's first REGAP chapter. She wanted to find loving homes for these gentle dogs. When several of the REGAP chapters wanted to form Greyhound Pets of America in 1987 she was eager to participate.

Millie started out as the adoption coordinator matching dogs to adopters. She would get information from the kennels about dogs that were available for adoption and then try to match the available dogs to potential adopters. She would always do a home visit so that she could make sure the potential adopters were suitable candidates and

to make sure that they knew the unique qualities of the dogs. When the adopter was approved, Millie would travel from her home in Quincy, MA to the track, often in Belmont, NH to pick up the dog and bring it to its new home.

Millie was also very busy promoting the adoption program. Once a week she had an interview that aired on the Raynham Taunton Track replay segment. She would bring one of the dogs with her so that she could spotlight the dog and find it a home. GPA was also doing Meet 'n Greets at the track and at pet stores along with weekly ads in the classified section of the newspaper. She also arranged most of the hauls between the track and the Maryland and Pennsylvania sub chapters. Since the beginning Millie has been involved in most of our chapter's adoptions. She is often the first contact a potential adopter has with the group and does most of the follow up calls.

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Millie Merritt

*continued from page 3*

She started out as Vice President of GPA Massachusetts and transitioned over to Treasurer after a few years, a position she still holds to this day. Along with the financial records she also keeps all of the adoption records and ID tag information.

A year or two after REGAP was formed Kathy saw that there was a need for volunteers and she thought she could make a difference. She started as a fundraiser, organizing craft shows as a way to raise money. She then became REGAP's adoption rep in south eastern Massachusetts.



**Kathy Morrill**

In the early days of greyhound adoption, many trainers and owners did not want their greyhounds to be adopted. They couldn't see them in the role of family pet and had visions of them running loose in the streets and being hit by cars. Kathy spent a lot of time at the racetrack, in those early days, trying to convince them otherwise. There were a few kennels that were very receptive to the idea and as the success stories mounted, more and more kennels came around to the idea of adoption.

Kathy knew she wanted to devote more time to the dogs, so when looking for a new home she searched for a place where she could have a kennel. For several years the kennel held greyhounds that had been injured, needing to be nursed back into good condition before returning to racing and those who were just waiting for a haul to another track.

At that time, when someone wanted a greyhound they were just given the next dog on the list.

There were a lot of returns in those days and

the adoption rep had to hold the dog until a new home could be found for it. That was often a problem and they ended up sending them to Kathy's kennel. Potential adopters liked having a choice of dogs and over a period of time Kathy was asked to use the kennel just for adoptable dogs. Kathy continues to be the Kennel Mom. She balanced a very busy life raising her children and caring for the dogs in the kennel. Along with daily feeding, cleaning and turnouts, she also makes sure that the dogs get their regular veterinary care and often did all of this with no help. Kathy has had a hand in almost every adoption as she has helped the greyhounds pick out their new families. She will sometimes spend hours with a family making sure that they find the perfect dog for their situation. She always preferred to stay in the background until she was elected president, a position she still holds.

It is because of the hard work and dedication of people like Millie and Kathy that greyhound adoption is the success it is today.

## Vintage Maddog

Maddog McDermutt, the world's greatest retired-to-the-pen Greyhound trainer, first appeared on the pages of The Greyhound Review many years ago. Maddog offered its readers all kinds of advice on a regular basis and provided them a steady diet of satirical short stories that continue to be sought after to this day. True



to form, Vintage Maddog presents sixteen of the best of these classic and irreverent adventures as told by the master himself from the heyday of Greyhound racing.

Robert Scott McKinnon claims that his alter ego, Maddog McDermutt, is not the Daymon Runyon of dog racing but rather that Daymon Runyon is the Maddog McDermutt of horse racing. Vintage Maddog is a must read for anybody who has ever been to a dog track, adopted or stopped to pet an adopted Greyhound, and dog lovers in general. If you like racing, of any kind, or appreciate humanity's best friend, you'll love these sixteen off-the-wall gems.

# GPA National Member Drive

In order for GPA National to continue supporting the following programs we need to do some fundraising. Hence, we are starting a membership drive in October.

- 1) Emily Griffin Memorial Injury Fund provides funds to help pay for major medical expenses incurred when a chapter takes in a sick or injured greyhound. Most of these grants are given to broken leg greyhounds.
- 2) GPA National Grant Program provides funds for many special projects such as purchasing trailers or vans or capital improvements such as repairs to kennels, purchasing crates, fencing, upgrading electrical needs, HVAC needs or helping a chapter with expenses to send a delegate to the annual national meeting, etc.
- 3) Emergency Funds are needed for track closures, natural disasters and other emergency situations such as a farm closing that requires immediate dollars for food, housing, transportation, etc.
- 4) General Operating Expenses – some funds may be used for advertising, legal expenses, postage, emergency travel expenses, etc.

When joining GPA National you will have a chance to win an awesome gorgeous one of a kind greyhound quilt. The greyhound embroidery work was created and done by Jack and Gretchen Peckham, owners of [www.greythreads.com](http://www.greythreads.com). The quilt was made by and generously donated by greyhound moms and volunteers, Paula Huter and Mary Blecha.



**There are three levels of membership:**  
**Bronze - \$25 to \$49 (2 chances to win the quilt)**  
**Silver - \$50 to \$100 (5 chances to win the quilt)**  
**Gold - \$100 and up (12 chances to win the quilt)**

Your tickets will be filled out and entered to win the quilt upon receiving your membership payment. Email

confirmation will be sent to you. The winner will also select the GPA chapter of their choice and that chapter will receive a \$500 donation.

The membership drive will last through Jan. 31, 2011. The drawing will be Feb. 1, 2011 and the winner will be notified.

**Membership payment can be made through paypal by going to [www.greyhoundpets.org](http://www.greyhoundpets.org), click on Donate and NOTE: 2011 GPA Nat. Membership OR mail a check or money order to:**

**GPA National Membership Drive  
Alane Shultz  
P.O. Box 3693  
Springfield, MO 65808**

## Ebro and Pensacola Seasonal Track Closings Fall 2010

### Florida Greyhounds Need Your Help!

Ebro in FL will close seasonally on Sept. 25, 2010 and reopen in May 2011. All greyhounds must be off the track compound by Nov. 1, 2010. Many believe there will be at least 150-200 greyhounds that will need to move into adoption groups. Pensacola Greyhound Track will close seasonally Oct. 31, 2010 and reopen in Feb. 2011. According to Ann Bollens who spoke with the trainer's assn. rep there thinks it will be likely that 150 Pensacola greyhounds will need to be placed at the end of October.

As of Aug. 23, 2010 Ebro had a total of 136 greyhounds available and 104 ready to go right now! There are 66 females and 70 males. 32 more will be probably ready at the end of the season. 33 have been cat tested and there are 103 left to be cat tested.

Please share this information with all your volunteers and adopters and with other greyhound adoption groups that you work with.

**If you're interested in trying to take some of these greyhounds please contact:**

**Dennis Tyler or Ann Bollens. Dennis's email is [cfgpa@cfl.rr.com](mailto:cfgpa@cfl.rr.com) and Ann Bollen's email is [annbo47@bellsouth.net](mailto:annbo47@bellsouth.net)**



# Our Trip To Belize

By Whistle Dixiedoo Dixon

It started on the 29th of May when we loaded two suitcases, a few household goods, two soft dog beds, dog food and treats (we have to have our pigs ears), two humans (know as Mom and Dad), myself (Dixie, or as I'm know professionally as Whistle Dixiedoo) and my sister Darla (just Darla) into our car and started a trip of a lifetime. Not sure what was ahead of us, we started on a long trip that took us through the states of Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and finally arriving in California, tired, but happy. We were willing to take on the trip of our lives and a major life change for all of us! We had never traveled so far with our "family" and many of our friends were not sure that we were not totally insane (not going to mention anyone, but you know who you are Aunt Carlene). Darla and I knew what we were doing and followed a routine we had made several times on our trips to see our many friends at various "show and tell dates", and play dates with the Mitchell boys in Springfield, Missouri. However, this would be a much longer trip and at

times we could hardly understand the long ride with several stops in new and different territory. The first adjustment was to the different types of stopping places. Surely, the replacement of tall grass at home with the hot and sometimes rocky soil of the numerous stops for a rest seemed almost surreal! Do dogs and people really live in the hot and dusty state of Arizona? This was going to be a different experience for sure! Okay, we can do this "rest" stop thing and look at all the humans that wanted to pet us and say how beautiful we are and well behaved as well. Many people at our "stops" had never seen a greyhound before! Boy, were we proud. We stopped at some very nice hotels, with Darla and I having our own big bed to share. Sometimes I'd get to sleep with Mom, while Darla slept with dad. We tended to sleep where we wanted and Mom and Dad would adjust.

Wish Darla and I could say that this was all that was going to happen to us on this trip! After spending ten days in California with our relatives and a cat named Ernie Banks we had said to ourselves that this was really not such a bad trip after all! Boy, those people in Hollywood know how to live! We had a huge field in which to run and chase each other for hours on end. Hey, after being cooped up in a car for two and a half

5

play even if we had to put up with a cat named Ernie Banks, Go! Go Cubs!!!

We were just getting used to the California scene when we got the news that we were on our way to Belize in Central America. We are going where? Do they speak English and does this mean another three day ride in the car? Well, yes, they do speak English in Belize and yes, it will be another long ride through a strange country call Mexico. Well, that is better than riding in the dark on a silly airplane not being able to see Mom and Dad. Mom told us that we couldn't take the airplane because it was too hot for us to travel that way. Seems they have restrictions as to the heat at the take-off and landing sites! Okay, we will ride then! Hey, we have Mom and Dad with us and it cannot be 100 degrees as it was in the western states we passed through! As we drove from California to Texas, we saw so many US Border patrol cars, that we finally stopped counting them. We were stopped three times, at check points along the way; all the military people thought we were pretty cool dogs.



We are on our way....back through the desert again (and the heat) toward Brownsville, Texas where Mom and Dad made a right turn and we found ourselves in Mexico! Well, almost, anyway. We still had to go through customs and immigration in Mexico, which took about three hours. We made it and they even allowed us to follow Mom and Dad into the immigration and customs buildings, through all of the procedures to get us into Mexico as tourists! Boy, were the lines long so we finally just spread out on the floor where the tile was a lot cooler!

Back in the car and we were in Mexico for a three and a half days drive through a completely different country! Oh yes, we stopped and they had many great places for us to run and stretch our long legs. The county is different and we found it boring until we saw the east coast and the ocean. Now we have seen the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans! How many greyhounds can say that they have experienced that! We'd get up early, have breakfast, take a potty break and head out on the road. The roads in Mexico were very good; we only had two incidents that made Mom very mad. She was doing all the driving, as Dad had sprained his ankle in Brownsville, Texas the night before we crossed the border into Mexico. Darla had to go to the bathroom about 1:00AM and Dad took her out, but didn't take a flashlight and stepped in a hole and twisted his ankle

(that's Dad). At the end of the first day of driving, we got to Tampico, Mexico and we were looking for a place to stay for the night. As Mom turned a corner in the road a bunch of policemen stopped her. They didn't speak English and her Spanish is not that good. It seems they were trying to tell her she was speeding and that they wanted money. She paid them 2,000 pesos, which is about US\$158.00. Boy was she mad; she even yelled at them and called them crooks! We found a really nice place to stay, a brand new Holiday Inn and we had a nice night together. In the afternoon of the second day in Mexico, she was stopped again in Veracruz, Mexico; they said she made a wrong turn, which she didn't and it costs us 2,000 pesos again. We felt so sorry for her. The third day went without a hitch and we reached Chetumal, Mexico that night. Most people in Mexico had never seen a greyhound before. They were really scared of us, until Mom and Dad said we were friendly. Most people in Mexico and Belize have dogs for protection, so seeing how big we were, they were hesitant about approaching us. But we won them over.



Finally, we made it to the Mexican/Belize border. We had to pay duty on our car, and pay for us to enter the country. It wasn't so bad, and we were finally heading toward our new home about 20 miles from the border. We got to our new home around 3:00PM, and haven't left. Mom and Dad have been doing work on the house: had the whole house painted on the inside, and are having a pool put in. We got our shipment about two weeks after we got here, so we have our nice big beds to sleep on, more pigs' ears and treats to eat, and our waterbed (really it's Mom's and Dad's but we take naps on it). We really like all the men who are working on the pool, they are nice to us. We go for a walk every evening. Have been to the ocean, it is really salty. Anyway, we are adjusting to the heat. We met another dog in the neighborhood, but he is scared of us, we'll win him over. We heard there is another family here that has a greyhound and we hope to meet him soon. We can't wait for the pool to get done so we can sit outside on the deck and watch Mom and Dad play in the pool.

Well, that is our story; we are all fine and enjoying life in Belize.

## What's Required to Move Your Pet to Belize By Car?

For the "valid import permit", go on-line to Baha (Belize Agricultural Health Authority) [www.baha.bz](http://www.baha.bz) and get the forms to fill out for each animal. Fax the completed forms back and once they are approved you are notified. Then print off what you sent, just in-case Baha did not fax the forms to the Mexico/Belize border where you're entering. Then you have to pay \$50 for each animal and \$12.50 for the forms. The "valid rabies vaccination certificate" comes from your vet, and the "international veterinary certificate" your vet can get from your state government. The Dixons said "It was pretty easy. Even when we got to the border, we had no problem getting the greyhounds in. To get through Mexico we only needed the "valid rabies vaccination certificate" and the "international veterinary certificate". They never even asked to see them and we had to pay nothing for the greyhounds. They did go through the forms in Belize though, even making copies for their records."

## Online Belize Government Information

Dogs and cats can be brought into Belize without quarantine. Owners must get a certificate from a veterinarian after an examination not more than 48 hours before to shipment stating that the animal is free from infectious diseases and has been vaccinated for rabies not less than one month and no more than six months before departure.

Bringing a pet into the country falls under live animal importation and is regulated by the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA). Domestic pets are allowed to enter the country provided their owners have: a valid import permit, international veterinary certificate, a valid rabies vaccination certificate, and that their pets have been inspected by a quarantine officer. There is a US\$12.50 entry fee, plus a US\$12.50 fax fee.

To apply for an import permit, request an application form from the Permit Unit of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, and then return the completed form to the same agency. The date of arrival must be specified. Approved permits will be faxed to the applicant at a cost of US\$12.50 to be paid at the point of entry on the day of arrival. If you don't follow this application process, you will be subject to a US \$100 violation fine in addition to the US \$12.50 entry fee.