

## Highlights

- Worm Primer
- Donations/Adoptions
- Research on Guilty Looks
- Fun Photos

wk of 1/10/10  
3 pages



# NEWS FROM THE FRONT

An itty-bitty weekly e-newsletter from Nittany!

## JUST SO YOU KNOW...

For those of you who read *Celebrating Greyhounds*, then you already know about this, but I'm going to steal the idea!

I want to know how your greyhound has changed your life. I know how being involved with greyhounds has changed my life, but I want to know how it has changed yours. Send me your stories and photos and I'll print them in this newsletter.

If someone had told me ten years ago that I would be knee-deep involved in this kennel and with this adoption group, I would have told them they were crazy. I never had done anything that was bigger than just me, and volunteering has allowed me to focus on something worthwhile and worth doing.

Not only that, but my friends are now all greyhound people, and I wouldn't have ever known them -- our paths would never have crossed -- if hadn't been for these dogs. I have been, and am, inspired every single day by the adopters who walk through our door and the supporters who volunteer and give their hard-earned dollars to help us place greyhounds. What a tragedy it would have been if I hadn't been in that place at that time to get involved with this group.

It humbles me and gives my life meaning. I know that I'd be lost without Nittany... How about you?

Toni

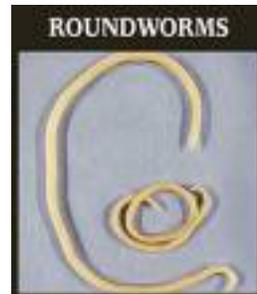
tonijduchi@aol.com

**NOTE: Because of the storm this past week and the extremely frigid temperatures, our dog haul has been pushed back to next weekend, January 16. The six new dogs should arrive at Roo Valley late-afternoon, so stay tuned! If you'd like to be here when they arrive, let me know and I'll put you on my "keep-posted" list for that day.**

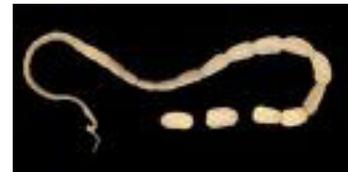
## INTESTINAL WORMS: A Primer

I get panicked calls almost every day from adopters who are mortified that they have found the dreaded worms in the poop! Yes, it's definitely icky, no question about that...but it's not uncommon at all and dogs that have been kept in close quarters, like our greyhounds have been in Florida, are more apt to have recurring worms. It's not a crisis and is easily controlled...but here's a refresher.

The roundworm is a common intestinal worm in dogs. It looks like spaghetti and can be up to 8 inches in length. In adult dogs, roundworms in the intestine absorb nutrients from the surrounding fluid; then they mate and lay eggs. Once the eggs pass out of the dog in the stool, they hatch into larvae ready to infest another dog. The next dog becomes infested by eating the stool or grass contaminated with larvae. During cold weather, the larvae can stay dormant for months, so cold weather does not kill them. In younger dogs, severe infestations can show up in vomit or can be seen in stool. In adult dogs, the worm larvae can enclose themselves in cysts in muscle walls, staying dormant forever.



Tapeworms can actually migrate your dog's anus and appear on your rug, or worse, on your pillow! Typically, though, you'll see segments of this worm in his poop. Tapeworm segments are parts of a longer worm that lives in your dog's intestine. The segments look like rice grains, but they are actually egg packets, which must be eaten by an intermediate host for the tapeworm's life cycle to continue. The intermediate host for dogs is typically the flea.



Once inside the host, the larvae hatch and migrate to the host's muscle tissue, encysting themselves to wait for the next stage. The next stage is vital -- the host must be eaten by the dog. This releases the larvae, which develop into adult tapeworms, shedding segments to continue the cycle. Since fleas cause

more . . . scroll down

## DONATIONS LAST WEEK

Dave and Marie Caster made a cash donation in memory of their angels, Kiss, Darby and Maurice with this note: *"Thank you to the entire NG crew who dedicate themselves to making the world a happier place for the hounds and people alike!"*

Jan Taminini also sent in a nice cash donation last week, as did Brandon Ferringer, one of our day-board customers.

Kristi Jones, State College resident and supporter, baked a big batch of "Plumpkins" and delivered them to Ellen at Petco! Even without a greyhound, she wanted to help. Nice!

Animal Medical held a food drive over the holidays, and we benefitted from that this past week with food and a whole box of towels and doggie sweaters. Thanks to them for all their support.

Tractor Supply has also now added us to their donations list and so we will receive broken dogfood bags and other items from them!

And, of course Petco continues to donate merchandise to us as well. We are truly blessed to have such great relationships with local merchants. Our hounds benefit!

## ADOPTIONS LAST WEEK

Miss Ghostie got adopted last week! She has found a home with Ken McDonald of York. This is his second little girl in six months, he previously adopted Priscilla!

And beautiful Emily went to her new home in Pittsburgh during the holidays with Jean Pletcher. All is well and Emily is adjusting as an only-dog princess!

Of course there's Ray-Ray! The Mincemoyers flunked fostering and will be keeping this beautiful red soccer star. Lucky boy!

skin irritation, dogs lick them off and swallow them. Dogs with flea infestations can have significant tapeworm loads.

Tapeworms are really not much of a health concern. Infestations can cause the dog to drop weight, eat more, and lose coat quality because the tapeworm is absorbing nutrients from the dog's food before the dog can benefit from them.



Hookworms, which we are finding a lot in our Florida dogs, are more insidious in some ways because they actually suck blood from the dogs. These worms can consume so much blood that dogs become anemic and can die. Dogs pick up hookworms either by eating the worm eggs deposited in dog feces or when worms from the ground penetrate the skin. A dog can become infected simply by walking on the lawn.

Whipworms are not as common, but also feed on blood. It can trigger bloody diarrhea and weight loss, and is mainly seen in adult dogs.

**DIAGNOSIS:** Checking stool works mainly with tapeworms. These are also the worms you may see in your dog's bed or around his anus. Because most infestations of roundworms and hookworms are light, dogs generally do not show any outward evidence of worms. Their presence can only be confirmed by finding eggs in the dog's feces. Symptoms, however, can be weight loss, bloody diarrhea, or scruffy coats.

**TREATMENT:** Worms are fairly easy to treat. Many deworming meds are available, either from your vet or over the counter. A broad-spectrum product can control most kinds of worms. We recommend that you just routinely treat your dogs for worms, including heartworms, by using a product like Interceptor or HeartGard or other monthly product. The cost of the products are well worth not having to worry about these pesky parasites any more.

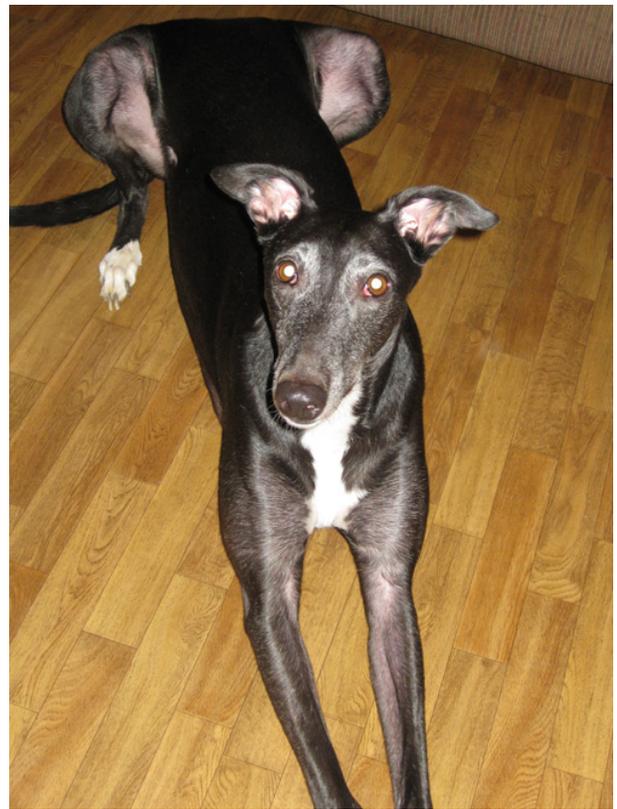
## WORM FACTS

**#1:** People can get worms from dogs. If someone ingests a roundworm larva, they can get infested. Think of it like a child sucking his thumb after playing on a lawn where an infested dog has defecated. The larva enters the human body, but because humans are not its natural host, it becomes confused and starts burrowing. If the larva ends up in an eye, it can cause blindness. In the brain, it can trigger seizures. Tapeworms can infest people who ingest an infected flea. Tapeworm infestations in people are not really dangerous, but passing tapeworm segments in the feces is discomforting. Hookworms can enter the bodies of dogs by burrowing through the skin, and they can do the same with people. They cause a severe reaction as they migrate through the body. Luckily, all are easily treated.

**#2:** When dogs "scoot" on the carpet, they drop their butts and put their back feet in the air, pulling themselves across the floor with their front legs. Many people think this behavior is an indication of worms. That is not true. In most cases, this comical behavior is caused by the irritation of overfilled anal sacs -- grape-sized structures just inside the anus. Scooting dogs are just trying to empty those sacs.

scroll down...

# FUN PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Top Left--Pru Stitzer stands still for one brief moment; Top Right--Star Thompson exhibits a perfect "Egyptian position;" Below 2 photos: Tina got a new camera and so now the Burns kids are going to be stars!

**BY THE WAY: We have a bunch of new fancy, gorgeous Martingales available now...many new "boy-fabrics!" Come check them out!**



## GUILT: All in the Eye of the Beholder

So you've caught your grey misbehaving. Even if you didn't see it, you know he did something he shouldn't have. You have the evidence -- that guilty look on his face!

Think again. A recent study by a Alexandra Horowitz, assistant professor at Barnard College in New York, ran a series of tests to look at how owners interpret their dogs' expressions.

Some owners were told that their dog had stolen a treat, even if he had not. The owners who reprimanded their dog for the bad behavior thought they were seeing a guilty look, when in fact the dog was expressing unhappiness with being lectured.

"The effect of scolding was more pronounced when the dogs were obedi-

*END*

ent, not disobedient," Horowitz wrote in the journal *Behavioural Processes*. She concluded that a perceived "guilty look" was usually a response to the owner's behavior and had no relationship to the dog's actions or sense that

