



2008 Station Road
Warriors Mark, PA 16877

April 2004

NEW PHONE NUMBER!
814-632-DOGS

Please change your records.

FROM THE BOARD . . .

First of all, we want to thank you for your continued support of Nittany Greyhounds. We have had phenomenal responses to everything we've done so far to take our organization to the next level, and we so appreciate all of your questions and/or comments about what we're doing. We value every opinion; please keep them coming.

Also, in case you haven't heard, the Harrisburg Satellite group of Nittany has decided to form their own group and they will be a chapter of NGA serving south-central Pennsylvania. We truly wish them luck. The distance between groups has been an issue and it makes sense for them to have their own organization. We will continue to work with them as much as we can because we are, first and foremost, bonded by the love for greyhounds.

Nittany's vision has not changed—we are still moving toward having our own kennel and as you will see on page 2, our amount of money raised is steadily rising. Again, thanks to all of you who have donated. We are continuing to adopt greyhounds into loving homes and it is our ultimate goal—TO ADOPT OUT MORE GREYHOUNDS!

OUR ANNUAL NITTANY GREYHOUND FAMILY REUNION WILL BE ON MAY 22 AT ROCK SPRINGS. See the flier enclosed. Join us for a great day of dogs and fun and friends! Get your reservations in early!

Please read on for other changes and feel free to contact any board member at any time with your questions or comments.

BOARD POSITIONS FILLED

Nittany Greyhounds again has a full board! With the resignations of Heidi McClelland and Dianne Shadle, Nittany had two board positions open. And, as of April 18, both of those positions have been filled.

JoAnn Hoy of State College has been elected to fill the first position. You may recognize her name as our largest financial benefactor. JoAnn brings to this position many years of management experience, both within the military and after her retirement.

Dave Turner of Lock Haven has been elected to fill our second open position. Dave has been a dedicated volunteer for Nittany for a long time, showing up at every Bark Park and many other events. And, he has built us a complete set of agility equipment!

We appreciate the fact that these two volunteers have stepped up to the plate and rolled up their sleeves. We are stronger because of them and welcome them wholeheartedly to our board.

THANKS HEIDI!

Last month, Heidi McClelland, long-time board member resigned. She has been an integral part of our board several years, and her wisdom and "hands-on" approach will be missed. She will still serve as our e-mail listserv master and as a regular volunteer at our events. Thank you, Heidi, for your devotion!



BOARD LEADERSHIP

Elaine Oleksa, our President and Founder, resigned her Presidency in March. She will serve on the board and continue as Dog Coordinator. She is the heart of Nittany and will be involved, as always, on a daily basis.

At our Board Meeting on April 25, many decisions were made about the direction of Nittany Greyhounds. Most importantly, we came to a consensus about leadership. It was decided, after weighing many options, that the Executive Board will serve as the leadership body of NG, with the office of President remaining vacant for the time being. Everyday decisions will be made by Vice President, Mary Lisa Hostetler; Secretary Toni Duchi; and Treasurer Garry Lehman, with consultation from board members and others as necessary.

In addition, a new Nittany Greyhound phone number will be put into place, with the main line to be placed in Elaine's home connected to an answering machine. Elaine will either answer the phone or pick up messages and forward them to the appropriate person.

AS OF THIS DATE, WE HAVE 7 DOGS THAT NEED HOMES. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO'S THINKING ABOUT A GREYHOUND, PLEASE CONTACT THEM. OR, IF YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT FOSTERING, NOW IS THE TIME. CONTACT ELAINE IF YOU CAN HELP. THANKS!

The "UNITED WAG" campaign

Continuing to Make Progress . . .

We have had a fabulous two months of fundraising, with a successful letter campaign and with Bark Park success!

Nittany will continue to raise funds, using the Bark Park as our regular monthly fundraiser. We'll also put together a raffle by Picnic-time, and we'll now switch gears and begin looking at grants. We're moving forward very quickly and with almost \$45,000 in the bank, we are well on our way to having our own facility.

Keep in mind that if you are a member of a group looking for a service project, supporting Nittany Greyhounds is a great way to get lots of community exposure, especially in areas outside of the Centre County area. We will be expanding our territory into the more northern and eastern areas of our region. Partnering with Nittany Greyhounds is a great way for a company or organization to get lots of exposure, and it allows us to more quickly place dogs in loving homes.

Give us a call if you have questions or ideas about how to go about this. Toni Duchi, our Fund Raising Task Force Chair, can be reached at 814-692-4769 or at toni@paisleygroup.com. Don't hesitate to contact her.

THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!

We have always had lots of people say, "If there's anything I can do let me know." Well, now is the time. We need your help.

Specifically, we need VOLUNTEERS (for the Bark Park in the kitchen, reception, ring monitors, adoption table or vendor

continued column 3...

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE! cont'd . . .

relations; for meet 'n greets, etc.). In addition, we need FOSTER FAMILIES for adoptable hounds! If you are thinking you might want to give this a try, let us know right away. We need temporary homes as we are now boarding three dogs in a kennel and have some returns.

And...we need meet 'n greet VOLUNTEERS. A couple of hours at an event with your greyhound can be such a rewarding experience and so much fun. People love to see greyhounds and of course, we love to talk about them! See the back page for a calendar listing of events coming up.

If you think you'd like to **GET INVOLVED**, we could also use fundraisers and other events in your community. If you want to plan a meet 'n greet, let us know and we'll help you. If you'd like to do a fundraiser, we'll help you with that too. Or, if you know someone who writes for your local newspaper, contact them about an article about adopting greyhounds. Every bit of publicity we can get will help us place dogs.

Now that we are stepping up our community awareness activities, we need more volunteers than ever. We have adopters all over the state, but few events away from Centre County. How about it? Get involved!

One of our most important needs is a WEBMASTER. Heidi has been filling this role very capably, but she would appreciate someone stepping up take over this responsibility.

Contact either Mary Lisa at 814-692-8777, or Toni at 814-692-4769 for more information about any of these activities. Or call 814-632-DOGS for general NG info.

**OUR GOAL:
\$500,000!**

\$250,000

\$100,000

**so far...
\$45,000**



HONOR ROLL OF

ADOPTERS (since February '04)

Carrie & Jamieson Dippel—Burt
Lenna and Verne Neff—Miz Mobil
Candace Wert—Smiley
Penny Ruggieri—Becky
Cathy Schreckengest—Kaleb
Jeff and Kathy Ressler—Rooster
Fran Warne—Blackie
Waltraud Neilson—Ollie
The Passmore Family—Cody

The CeCe Lost Dog Network

As some of you may remember, during the last holiday season, CeCe, one of our newest adopted kids, escaped from a local kennel. Dozens of volunteers kept up a vigil throughout a two-month period to try to persuade her to come home to us but to no avail. She was seen many times, but no one was able to get close to her. She subsequently passed, and her body was recently discovered by local volunteers. We mourn the loss of such a wonderful dog and believe that quick response to this situation is our best tool. So...

The Board has now formed CeCe's Network, a phone tree of volunteers that can be mobilized at a moment's notice to try to find lost dogs. If you would like to be on the list, please e-mail Elaine.

BARK PARK CONTINUES ITS SUCCESS!

It seems we have created a phenomenon! If you haven't attended a Bark Park yet, you need to see this! More than 150 dog-lovers have signed up for our Bark Parks, and over the last three, we have averaged about 60-70 dogs in a session. Lots of greyhounds have lined themselves up for a race; puppies have done valuable socializing; labs have chased each other senseless; and Jack Russels have become the "chasee" with glee. Every size and shape of dog shows up. We are vigilant with our safety procedures and so far there have been no serious altercations! If you want to join us, or if you'd like to volunteer some time, our next three Bark Parks are Saturday, May 15, Saturday, June 19, and Friday evening, July 16, at the Ag Arena on the Penn State Campus. We ask a donation of \$8 per dog for the entire day's activities and we have, so far, accommodated about a dozen different vendors. There is an application that needs to be completed for each dog, so call Toni at 814-692-4769 for that paperwork.

DO YOU HAVE STORIES OR PICTURES.....

....you'd like to share? This is YOUR newsletter and we want to include your photos and/or fun stories or interesting observations. Even if you aren't comfortable writing, it doesn't matter. We're all in love with greyhounds and want to hear about them! Send your photos and stories to Toni Duchi (see back page for address/e-mail). If you have ideas for stories, too, we'd love to know about them. We'll do the research...next newsletter deadline: June 30, 2004.

HONOR ROLL OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

We want to send out a very special thank you to Jackie at the Stone Valley Pet Lodge and to Becky at the Royal Pet Resort for their help with our emergency kenneling of hounds. We appreciate it so much.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS (\$10-\$25)

Bonnie Sigel
James & Joy Love
Roger & Eunice Peters
Gerri Schmeck
Ann Wagner

PLATINUM COLLAR MEMBER (\$101-\$500)

Deidre & Allison Fox
Ray & Elsie Wirrick
(for Tug and Valentine)
Janyce Mose
Greg Liddy

LILY'S LEGACY (\$501-\$5000)

(\$1,000 and above-naming of a kennel run).
Toni Duchi (for Porsche & Mercedes)
Petco, State College
Pamela & Hideki Masaki (in memory of
Navajo Big Shot a.k.a. "Cheeser")

GOLDEN COLLAR MEMBER (\$26-\$100)

Ann & Randy O'Dell
Beatrice Avery (for Geronimo, Brook & Lyn)
Mandy Godfrey/Billie Davis & Jesse
Orrie Greenwood
Stephen Kanouse
Sandy Davis
George Bowman
Susan Harkanson (in memory of
Alexander the Greyt)
Maureen & Joe Halat
Tammy Klaus (in memory of Nina and
appreciation for Hopey)
Robin White
Betty & Bob Taccard
Karen & Greg Joncas (in memory of
Winnie, our very first greyhound)
Matthew Waller (in honor of "Burt")
Kathleen Perry

LONG-TERM PLEDGES

Ruth Ann Means (in memory of Laura--
named kennel run--\$100/month)

Also, Kristen & Tom Basol donated a one-night stay in King of Prussia as a raffle prize! Thanks so much!



NI TTANY HAS DOGS!

As was mentioned previously in this newsletter, due to unforeseen circumstances, we have ten dogs that are available for adoption right now. We thought we might put them in here and ask you once again to help us either find homes or to foster a dog. Three are in a local kennel and really need a home. If you're thinking of a second dog or know someone who's thinking about a greyhound, this is the time!



PAPA CAS
CODY
ELI



TC (aka Tire Changer)
WHEELS
MONICA

Papa Cas—He arrived from Florida in February and is 4 years old. He was a Class A Racer and so is a gorgeous specimen of a greyhound. He's white with brindle spots and has a really sweet disposition. He is also extremely high prey and cannot be placed with any other animals. He wants to be loved so badly and needs a single-animal home where he can love and be loved.

Cody—Also arrived in February from Florida and he is 4 years old. Cody is definitely small-animal safe and is shy and reserved, but has the face of an angel. No question he'll come out of his shell and be a fabulous companion animal. He's brown brindle.

Eli—arrived in January and was placed in a home that day. He has been returned because of a medical condition of his owner and so is ready for a new home immediately. He is not small-animal safe but does well with other greyhounds. Eli is a fawn brindle with beautiful markings, and is 4 years old.

TC—arrived in February from Florida and is being fostered so he is in a home situation. He's a fawn with a great, fun disposition. He's not small-animal safe but is in a multiple-dog home right now and does well. He 5 years old.

Wheels—is also a return to us. He is a fawn color and is 5 years old. He is in a foster home now so his personality is being evaluated. We know he's not small-animal safe.

Monica—A gorgeous, small, shiny-black female. She's fun-loving, spirited, and relaxed in her kennel situation. She is also 4 years old and is not small-animal safe. She's got a great personality though, a twinkle in her eye, and she'll be a great pet.

Not pictured: Jobey, age 6; Peanut, age 3; Mikey, age 2; and Ethan, age 4. Call Elaine for more information at 814-632-DOGS!

GARDENERS BEWARE!

Cocoa Mulch, sold by most garden centers now, contains an ingredient lethal to dogs and cats—Theobromine. It smells like chocolate, which, as you all know, is attractive to pets. They will ingest it and if enough is eaten it becomes lethal.

Theobromine is the ingredient used to make all chocolate—but especially dark, or baker's chocolate—which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells, which are the make-up of the mulch, contain toxic quantities of Theobromine (similar in chemical make-up to caffeine).

Shopping? — DON'T FORGET!

Simply go to <http://www.nittanygreyhounds.org/calendars.html> and click on one of the links provided. For instance, through I-give, you can shop from more than 200 merchants who participate in the program, including Amazon.com, L.L. Bean.com, PetSmart.com and many others. Every time you make a purchase, Nittany Greyhounds gets a percentage of the total. Need a copy of "Greyhounds for Dummies?" Order it this way and we get 15%! Check it out...but **remember....you must go to those sites THROUGH OUR SITE in order for us to receive the donation.**



NITTANY'S ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION PICNIC!
Saturday, May 22, 2004 (Rain or Shine)

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Rock Springs Ag Area
(site of Ag Progress Days)**

\$12.00/person - \$20.00/family

Once again, we'll get together for a fabulous Nittany Family Reunion! We're asking everyone to bring a covered dish (with a utensil for serving) or something edible to share. Nittany will provide the main course—burgers and hotdogs—and drinks.

We'll do our usual fabulous Chinese Raffle, with terrific prizes and lots of fun; we'll have games and the Nittany Greyhound Goodie Store; some other vendors, including a pet photographer; and other surprises. Come and meet Nittany's Board Members and of course, the many friends and supporters of greyhounds!

This is our biggest event of the year and the one that brings us all together again. Please do plan to join us. Bring your dogs, their sleeping pads and some food to share and join in the fun! SEE YOU THERE! (Note: It's on Route 45 but if you need directions, visit the Ag Progress Days site at <http://apd.cas.psu.edu> or call us at 814-632-DOGS.

NAME (please print) _____

PHONE NUMBER/E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

Number of People _____ DOGS' NAMES _____

Check Enclosed _____

Cut off this form and return it and your check to Nittany Greyhounds, 2008 Station Road, Warriors Mark, PA 16877

CONNECTICUT TRIP PLANNED

August 29, 2004, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Again this year, Nittany will attend the “Day at the Races” event, sponsored by Pups Without Parents in Bridgeport Connecticut. This is an annual event, and adoption groups from all over the Northeast are invited to attend. Held at the Shoreline Star Racetrack, the event allows adopters to observe the greyhounds racing and to mingle with other adoption groups and supporters. Every year, adopters meet the trainers and owners of greyhounds and get many of their questions answered. There are guest speakers, from both the racing industry and the adoption community.

There are raffles and vendors, and special presentations. Each ticket-holder is entitled to lunch and special seating. About eight Nittanys went last year and we had an absolutely wonderful time.

If you have an interest in attending or need more details, call Elaine at 814-692-DOGS. She will be coordinating our trip and if enough people are interested, we’ll look into chartering a bus.

THE SECRET DIARIES OF DOGS AND CATS REVEALED

As seen in a dog’s diary:

8 a.m.	Oh Boy! Dog Food! My favorite!
9 a.m.	Oh Boy! A Car Ride! My favorite!
10 a.m.	Oh Boy! A Walk! My favorite!
11 a.m.	Oh Boy! A Walk! My favorite!
Noon	Oh Boy! The Yard! My favorite!
3 p.m.	Oh Boy! The Kids! My favorite!
5 p.m.	Oh Boy! Mom! My favorite!
7 p.m.	Oh Boy! Dinner! My favorite!
9 p.m.	Oh Boy! Sleeping! My favorite!

As seen in a cat’s diary:

Day 183 of my captivity. My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine on fresh meat while I get dry cereal. I only hope for escape and the mild satisfaction I get from ruining the furniture. Tomorrow I may eat another house plant.

Today I will attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they walk. I again induced myself to vomit on their favorite chair—must try on bed.

Decapitated and brought home a mouse in an attempt to make them aware of what I’m capable of. They weren’t impressed. Am convinced that the other captors are flunkies and snitches. The dog is routinely released but comes back! Obviously a half-wit. The bird has to be an informant but because of his placement in a metal room, he is safe. But I can wait...it’s only a matter of time...

BLINK, YAWN, LICK YOUR LIPS, BREATHE

These are actually important instructions when working with animals. Surprised? If so, watch several animals and see how often they blink, yawn, lick their lips, turn their heads away, lift their paws, or circle. You may notice these behaviors more often when two or more animals are together, especially if they are unfamiliar with each other. Why? Because to animals, these behaviors are examples of “calming signals.” They say, “I’m no threat,” “I mean you no harm.” They are also signals to their own body to relax.

Calming signals aren’t officially a part of TTouch, but we learn how to read them during training. Since animals are non-verbal, they are more adept at body language than we are.

When you approach an animal you don’t know, try using some of these signals. Approach from the side or on a circular path. Turn your head or avert your eyes. It’s okay to look at them but then look away. Give them a chance to look at you. Yawn, blink, lick your lips. In other words, act nonchalant. Announce through these behaviors that you’re no threat. It’s OK to offer a hand for them to sniff, but best if that hand is below their head. It’s also OK to kneel down to be closer to their level if you’re sure that it’s safe to do so. All of these things will help them feel more comfortable.

If your dog or cat is nervous for some reason, try some of these calming signals. Watch to see if they return them. Tone while you’re talking to them, extending the vowel sounds--gooooood kkkiiiiittteeeee. And of course, don’t forget to breathe. Both of you will feel better. -- by Laurie Lee of *Pet Care Positivelee*. Contact her at 570-321-7939 or at laurie3323@verizon.net. Laurie is a greyhound foster mom and supporter of Nittany Greyhounds!

ANIMAL COMMUNICATION—What's in a Bark?

Thousands of years ago, humans began the process of domesticating the dog and shaping what “being a dog” really means. Through careful selection and breeding, an astonishing variety of dog breeds have been created. Desirable traits have been selected for in various breeds that are of a benefit to humans. There are some traits, however, that quickly become undesirable when expressed too frequently. Barking is an example of a natural behaviour that is encouraged in terms of guarding behaviour, but becomes a problem when the behaviour is produced in excess. A recent health insurance investigation revealed that the sound of a continually barking dog was cited as the most disruptive and stress inducing noise for humans.

Why Do Dogs Bark?

Barking, in addition to whining, howling and growling, is a dog's natural means of communication. Barking is characterized by a series of short, sharp sounds that tend to vary little in tone or pitch. A dog's bark can signify territorial protection, exertion of dominance, or expression of some need. Typically, barking is “a means of communication triggered by a state of excitement.” Being a natural trait, barking is not considered a behavioral problem until it is produced in excess.

Causes of Problem Barking

Problem barking has a variety of origins. Genetics do influence a dog's tendency to bark. Certain breeds belonging to the terrier family are prone to more frequent barking than breeds such as Greyhounds or Basenjis. Generally, however, excess barking can exist in any breed of dog. The key to solving the problem of inappropriate barking is to determine what external stimulus is triggering it.

Improper confinement can be a major cause of problem barkers. Improper confinement can include leaving a dog alone in a locked room, or in a dog crate (a tool used for housebreaking and other behavioral modifications). Other improper confinements can include restricted



tethering outdoors, or even an enclosed yard without proper shelter from the elements. Such confinement can cause frustration in a dog and cause it to bark excessively. Closely associated with improper confinement is lack of exercise as a cause of excess barking. Pent-up energy is released through barking.

Environmental sounds can also trigger barking. These sounds include such things as the barking of other dogs, the sound of passing cars, strange voices, thunder, and mechanical noises such as the ringing of the phone. Noises can initiate barking at different times of the day. A dog may not bark at accustomed sounds during the day, but at night may be incited to a volley of barking, much to the chagrin of the neighbors, by the slightest of noises.

Other causes of problem barking can include separation anxiety, or the temperament of the dog: an over-aggressive animal may bark at the smallest provocation. A strongly territorial dog may bark at any stranger, invited or uninvited, entering your property.

Solutions to Excess Barking

Excess barking can be a serious behavioral problem and can mean the termination of the relationship with your dog or the dog itself if left untreated.

The first step in solving problem barking, is to determine if your dog is barking in response to inadequate shelter or improper confinement. If

this is the case, the dog must be provided with a comfortable amount of space. Increasing the amount of exercise given to your dog may also help.

In the event your dog is barking in response to environmental noises, or the barking is simply due to its temperament, behavioral modification methods should be used. These methods can include reconditioning using a verbal reprimand such as “No!”, and leash correction. It should be noted however, that you should never yell at your dog, as loud noises may encourage your pet to bark more. He'll think you're just playing along. Also keep in mind the punishment should be applied while the barking is occurring in order for your dog to associate the unwanted behavior with the punishment. Also remember to reward your dog when it stops barking.

Indirect intervention methods can also be applied. These techniques can range from spraying your dog with water while it is barking, to using noise producing devices such as “Dog Stop” or “Barker Breaker,” which emit loud or high frequency sounds that interrupt and deter barking. These devices can be controlled by the owner, or triggered by the dog's barking. In the event your dog is resistant to these behavioral modifications, more drastic action can be taken in the form of bark activated shock collars or even in “debarking,” a vocal cordectomy. (Note that NG does NOT recommend such drastic measures but given circumstances, we realize that sometimes we must consider them.)

The key to solving the problem of excess barking in your dog begins with an understanding of what is causing this behaviour. Once you have determined a cause, you have a greater chance of choosing the most effective solution (e.g., more exercise) or behavioral modification. Modifying such an instinctive and natural behaviour as barking can be difficult, and may require considerable patience, time, and hard work. Solutions, however, are possible, and worth the effort.

Nittany Greyhounds
c/o Toni Duchi
617 Laurel Run Road
Port Matilda, PA 16870

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WWW.NITTANYGREYHOUNDS.ORG

**If you would like to be on our
Nittany Greyhound e-mail listserv,
please send your e-mail address
to Heidi at heidimc@adelphia.net**

NEW PHONE! 814-632-DOGS

**CALENDAR--Note that we need volunteers for all of our events!
Why not get involved! Contact people are noted below.**

MAY 1-2, 2004 — Adopt-A-Rama, Petco, State College. NOTE: If you are fostering a greyhound for us, please consider trying to be there. We have six hours of time to fill over two days, so we'll need lots of dogs and volunteers to talk up our passion! Call Mary Lisa Hostetler if you can join us.

MAY 15, 2004 — BARK PARK, Ag Arena (Penn State Campus), 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Call Toni Duchi if you can volunteer a little time that day to help us out.

MAY 22, 2004—NITTANY FAMILY REUNION PICNIC, Rock Springs Location, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (see flier enclosed)

MAY 29, 2004—MEET 'n GREET, Country Farm & Home, Madisonburg, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Contact Toni Duchi if you can volunteer some time to be there.

JUNE 19, 2004 — BARK PARK, Ag Arena (Penn State Campus), 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

JULY 16, 2004—BARK PARK, Ag Arena (Penn State Campus), 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

JULY 20, 2004—Bark in the Park, Altoona Curve (more details to follow)



LILY'S WISH LIST

- FOSTER HOMES--PLEASE CALL!
- GOT A FUND RAISING IDEA? We want to hear it!
- SPONSORS of Events, Ads, or other community awareness activities. KNOW A LOCAL REPORTER? Encourage a story!