



Greyhound Tails from the Ozarks

Greyhound Pets of America - Springfield, Missouri

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THUNDER: Full of Sound and Fury

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It's the height of the summer storm season and your phone is ringing off the hook. It's another call from another adopter of a thunderphobic hound. And it leaves you feeling helpless.

Unfortunately, fear of thunderstorms is one of the most difficult fear-related behaviors to resolve. The two primary components of a successful counterconditioning and desensitization program—preventing exposure to the fear and identifying and independently treating each and every trigger—is nearly impossible to achieve with the thunderstorm phobic dog.

For some dogs, the trigger is the sound of the thunder and nothing more. These dogs are more treatable, particularly if they live in areas that have long, thunderstorm-free seasons.

However, many dogs are reacting to multiple and overlapping triggers—changes in the barometer, winds, rain, static in the air, ionic changes, and perhaps things our human senses are not aware of. These triggers can be difficult, if not impossible, to control or replicate with any authenticity.

More importantly, fearful dogs often generalize these fears to non-storm related events—a low flying jet on a cloudy day, for instance. How do you control exposure to that? Since the chances of fixing this problem at this time of year aren't good, let's focus on what advice you can give your adopters that may help them and their hounds survive the storm season.

Provide comfort

Pay attention to where your dog goes for comfort during a storm, then provide a soft place for her there. Chances are it will be a dark place or a place in the center of the house where the sounds and flashes aren't as noticeable. Many dogs go to a downstairs family room, dark closet, a crate, the bathroom, or the bathtub.

During the storm season, plug in a Comfort Zone DAP system (see page 3 for this product's review). Use one for every 500 square feet of living space (the areas where you and your hound spend your time). And don't skimp by thinking you can buy one and move it around.

Supplement your hound's diet with 3mg of melatonin each day during the storm season. Give it on an

empty stomach. If you can't do that, then give it only with a non-protein source food. You can safely give your greyhound a second 3mg tablet about 40 minutes before a storm arrives.



Tune in

Invest in a good weather radio with a SAME alert system so you are always aware of when storms are brewing.

Turn on

Turn on some soothing music or a TV to mask the noises a bit until the storm is over.

Don't fence me in

Don't close her in her crate or confine her to a small space. Even if she prefers her crate or a small space, don't lock her in. She may panic and seriously injure herself if she tries to escape.

Cut the static

Reduce the static. Rub her coat with a fabric softener dryer sheet to decrease the static—a common result of thunderstorms and one that dogs learn to associate with the storms.

If your dog loves to ride in the car, try letting her ride out the storm in the car. This not only helps dissipate the static, but you can actually drive her away from the worst of the storm. If the storm is too heavy to make driving safe, sit with her in the car in the garage. She won't be able to see the lightning flashes and the thunder claps will be more muted.

Batten down the hatches

Keep windows covered so she can't see out. Keep her away from windows and keep all doors and outside gates closed so your dog cannot escape. Remember flight is a common response to fear. Prevent her from getting near glass doors or windows if she is panicky – some dogs will break through in an attempt to run from the storm.

Keep two collars on her – including one with her identification riveted to or woven into her collar – in case she slips on collar and bolts while her rescuer has a collar off trying to read your contact info.

Whatever safe place she chooses, be sure she has access to it when you are not at home.

continued on page 3

Alane's Notes



Spring has Sprung! It's greyt for taking your hound for walks and exercise! Adoption interest has picked up too and let's hope it continues through the summer. Don't forget to start your greyhound on Frontline Plus! And watch out for eating grass and dirt that can cause diarrhea.

Having a booth at the Home Builder's Assn.



Feb. Show was the best promotional event we've ever done! We had more quality and serious interest there than any other event ever! We have been informed by HBA that we

will be donated the booth space again next year! Woo Hoo! Thanks again to the

Springfield Home Builders' Assn. for allowing us to participate and helping us make a difference for many greyhounds!



Get ready for our 12th Annual Spring Raffle and our 12th Annual

GPA – Spfd. MO Reunion Picnic on June 5, 2004 (see page 8 for details). We will be selling raffle tickets to anyone and everyone April and May. We have some greyt donations and will have the list finalized by April 1. The top two raffle ticket sellers will receive a greyhound gift with significant value so rev up your engines. You don't have to be present to win, 6 for \$5 or \$1 ea. I'd be glad to mail you tickets! Let me know. All profits go to helping as many greyhounds waiting as possible to find responsible loving homes. The Raffle List will be on the web site as well. All Silent Auctions at the picnic will be Greyhound Related items and we have some cool stuff.

Our Custom Wood Greyhound Room Divider Screen Raffle ends March 31. We'll be announcing the winner and the number of tickets sold April 1. See FUNDRAISERS

at www.gpamo.org. And speaking of the web site.....we have a whole new look at the web site! Please feel free to give feedback on what you'd like to see there! We'll be adding a Memorial Section soon listing all the greyhounds that have come and gone over the years but will never be forgotten.

On the National Level, GPA has been working hard to increase greyhound adoption visibility, developing new adoption groups, providing advice and training on how to do that and the North American Greyhound Adoption Conference. This meeting is open to all responsible adoption volunteers. You may want to think about going. It's going to be Sept. 17-19, 2004 at the Richmond, VA Sheraton West hosted by GPA – Richmond, VA. See www.gpaconvention.org for the latest information. Registration procedures will soon be on line there.

I also attended the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando, FL in Jan. for 3 days. I was there to make more Vet and Vet Tech connections and provide adoption participation information. It was very worthwhile and I hope to go next year again.



Kudos **still** to our Novartis Rep (makers of Interceptor and Sentinel). He

continues to provide our foster greyhounds' complimentary heartworm meds. Support Novartis when you can! This is a huge money saver for us!

Me at vendor exhibit hall - North American Veterinary Conference 2004 in Orlando. Me & Harry at Biljac Booth. He is a Chinese Crested that starred in 101 Dalmations with Glenn Close as Cruella Deville.



(Thunder: Full of Sound and Fury article continued)

Don't coddle her

Simple reassurance can help some dogs, but keep it short and keep it simple. If it isn't working, stop it. Any attention you pay to her fearful behavior is likely to reinforce her belief that something bad is happening. You don't need to ignore *her* – just her fearful behavior. If she comes to you, let her share your company, but don't constantly stroke or baby her.

Try a safety cue

If her fear is mild, provide a safety cue such as a special chewie, a great stuffed frozen Kong, or new squeaky toy that will divert her attention. Provide this at the first sign of a storm and remove it as soon as the storm has passed.

Don't worry, be happy

Act happy. Be happy. She'll be watching you for clues about how to respond. So keep your own reactions calm and happy. Act as though *absolutely nothing* unusual is going on. If you are also afraid of storms, you have to practice your acting skills.

Use medicinal support

Every exposure to storms intensifies her response, increases the probability that more triggers will be added and that the fears will be generalized to non-storm related events. This makes a behavioral modification program less likely to be effective. Medication can help keep the problem from worsening or slow its progress. Even if the results aren't evident to you, it's worth it if it reduces the amount of panic your dog is experiencing.

Full of sound and fury

While these things will not fix a thunderphobic dog, they may help make the storm season more bearable and perhaps keep her fears from worsening. If you have a few months or so before the next storm season sets in, begin to work on a carefully prepared behavioral program well in advance of the next storm season. Terry Ryan has an excellent series of CDs, *Sound Sensibilities*, for this purpose. You can order the thunderstorm CD from Terry's website <http://www.legacycanine.com>, or from www.dogwise.com

The addition of the Comfort Zone seemed to be the catalyst that moved the dog to the next level of improvement. The changes began to be subtly noticeable at about two-to-four weeks and reached a maximum improvement at about four months.

In some situations the results have been dramatic. One Greyhound spook, after more than two years of barely being able to handle approaching her owners and only as long as they were not looking at her is now fully interactive with them and is greeting visitors like any normal Greyhound. Prior to using the CZ, they used a combination of behavioral meds, meds to treat hypothyroidism, extensive behavioral therapy, and they added a second Greyhound. None of those things made more than a minimal difference.

Our own girl, a roughly ten-year-old Galgo, for the first time since we got her has made it through an average summer storm season (2002) without any serious stress responses. This was her third season with us. Typically she would begin to quake and pant at the first thunder clap. This year, combining CZ with daily melatonin during the season, her only response was to note the first thunder clap by raising her head then going back to whatever she was doing. I also noted some subtle changes in her general comfort level with the world around her and with being home alone. All of these improvements began after we began using the CZ.

I've discussed this with other behavior therapists at continuing education conferences. Their results have usually been more mixed. However, what seems to be emerging is that the longer a dog spent with its mother as a puppy, the more likely the CZ is to work. That would suggest that my results with Greyhounds have been better because these guys all spend so long with Mom, whereas most pups are weaned beginning at 3-4 weeks and separated from mom by about 6-8 weeks. In urban areas, it isn't unusual for pups to be on their own (abandoned or in homes) at four or five weeks of age so they are unlikely to benefit from CZ.

I have not tried to eliminate it to see if the behavioral changes hold. Some of the folks I've asked to try it have successfully weaned it out.

Since it is relatively inexpensive and absolutely harmless, I have added it to my treatment plan for any situation that involves fear or stress-based behaviors. The only problem I've encountered is one of compliance. Just as with the Feliway, folks want to be stingy. They really do have to commit to using it based on the area size (one per every 500 square feet) and they do have to keep it plugged in—not just move it from room to room or plug it in before a storm or before going out. And of course they need to check the fluid levels to be sure it hasn't run out.

The only negative I've gotten is from one client who is extremely sensitive to chemicals. She says that she can smell it and that it affects her adversely. I'm also quite allergic/sensitive, but I have not experienced this with the CZ (I have with the spray version of the Feliway, but that could be the propellant). No other clients have indicated any similar issues and none indicate that their dogs have been affected adversely.

The cheapest place to find Comfort Zone DAP and the refills is Omahavaccine.com

Comfort Zone DAP® by Farnam

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I've been using Comfort Zone DAP since late December, 2002. I asked a select group of current and former clients to try it for me. I've recommended it to clients for SA, thunder phobia, and general spookiness/shyness. I've also been using with our Galgo who has some mild SA, mild to moderate Thunderphobia, and some general shyness/fearfulness.

Every one of the folks who've used it have reported positive, if sometimes subtle results. All were previously using other behavioral, nutritional, and/or pharmaceutical approaches to the problem behaviors with minimal or no results.



Greyhound Pets of America/Springfield, MO
*2004 Membership

Please renew your membership no later than May 15, 2004

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home PH. _____ Work Ph. _____ Cell Ph. _____

Email Address _____

The annual dues are \$20 for an individual & \$25 for a family membership, of course any additional donation is certainly appreciated & will be put to good use! Our vet bills continue to grow with an increase in injured, sick and/or poorly cared for dogs that are lucky enough to make it into our program. Some of these situations are sadly beyond comprehension, so we thank you for your care and support.

Please check below:

_____ Individual Membership—I have enclosed a check for \$20.00

_____ Family Membership—I have enclosed a check for \$25.00

_____ Additional Amount of \$ _____

You can also pay via PayPal at www.PayPal.com.

Our account is agreyhound@mindspring.com. State that the payment is for Membership & include your name in the "notes" section of the transaction.

Mail to: GPA-Springfield, MO P.O. Box 3693, Springfield, MO 65808



(If you no longer have GPA tags on your dogs, we will be happy to replace them. Please remember to keep collar and tags on your dogs at all times. It makes it much more likely that you and your dogs will be reunited in the event they are lost.)



Mark Your Calendars



DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Sunday, April 4	1pm - 3pm	Show and Tell	Petsmart Joplin, MO
Tuesday, April 6	6:30pm	Business Meeting	Alane's House Springfield, MO
Sunday, April 11	1pm - 3pm	Show and Tell	Petsmart Springfield, MO
Sunday, April 11	1pm - 3pm	Show and Tell	Petco Fayetteville, AR
Saturday, April 17	1pm - 3pm	Borders Meet-n-Greet (by appointment only*)	Borders Books and Music Springfield, MO
Friday, April 23	5:30pm - 9:00pm	KOZK TeleAuction (Sign up for times!)	SMSU University Springfield, MO
Thursday - Saturday April 29 - May 1	Various times	Greyhound Gathering	Kanab, UT
Saturday and Sunday, May 1 - 2	10am - 6pm	ArtsFest (Sign up for times!)	Walnut Street Springfield, MO
Sunday, May 2	1 pm - 3 pm	Show and Tell	Petsmart Joplin, MO
Sunday, May 9	1 pm - 3 pm	Show and Tell	Petsmart Springfield, MO
Saturday, May 15	1 pm - 3 pm	Borders Meet-n-Greet (by appointment only*)	Borders Books and Music Springfield, MO
Saturday, June 5	3:30pm - 7:30pm	Annual Picnic (See page 8 for more details)	Alane's House Springfield, MO
Sunday, June 6	1 pm - 3 pm	Show and Tell	Petsmart Joplin, MO
Thursday - Saturday June 10 - 12	Various times	Midwest Greyhound Gathering	Abilene, KS
Sunday, June 13	1 pm - 3 pm	Show and Tell	Petsmart Springfield, MO
Sunday, June 13	1 pm - 3 pm	Show and Tell	Petco Fayetteville, AR
Saturday, June 19	1 pm - 3 pm	Borders Meet-n-Greet (by appointment only*)	Borders Books and Music Springfield, MO
Friday - Sunday September 17 - 19	Various times	2004 N. American Greyhound Adoption Conference	Sheraton Hotel Richmond, VA
December 11	6:30 pm	Annual Holiday Party	TBA

* Please contact Liz Ardell if you would like to volunteer at the Borders event: rockchalkku@sbcglobal.net. The date of April 17 has already been filled.



Adoptions January 1 thru March 20

Cookie - Lesa Wells

Jacob - Sue Cooley

Reddie - Kelly Agnew

Rhapsody - Joann Raef

Thel - Gary & Mary Barb

Luv - Personalized Greyhounds, Inc.

Mt. Hood - Gerald & Mary Allen

Candy - Jim & Wanda Gerdeen

Annie - Sam & Lisa Owen

Crissy - Dan Malachowski & Addy McCord

Morgan - Mike Mitchell

Teri - Alan & Becky Fischbeck

Robbie - Wayne & Vivian Wilson

Maddie - Jeff & Lynette Goetzinger

Einstein - Terry & Sharon Blauvelt

Mariah - Rob & Lindy Cullison

Mugsy - Dave & Chelly Bennett Gilberg

Hoss - Garry & Debi Greek

Suzann - Pam Miles from Race the Winds

Nancy Greer's Greys --

Katie - Carla Myers

Bronc - John Bodoni & Sherry Wallace

Annie - Anisa Dawn & Michele Campbell

Mariah - Tony Puerta & Leota Mitchell

Angel - Llaso (wanna b grey) Bruce & Cheri Kirby

Littermates Reunited

by Ann Waitley

Flying Ringneck was one of Lonny Geier's broods (Sky's the Limit Kennel) who had 4 litters of pups (20 pups total), many of which ran in the kennel in Kansas City. Many of her offspring were excellent racers. One of her daughters, M's I Can Fly was in the top 5 broods in the country last year. Flying Ringneck (aka Mimi) was adopted by Kelly & Kevin a couple years ago. Kelly shares my passion of finding relatives and keeps in touch with many of Mimi's offsprings adopters. All of Mimi's offspring have gone to adoption now except M's I can Fly and Miss Alaina, who are both brood moms at their owners (Mick Massa) farm.

The thing that made this reunion so special is that all these dogs are littermates. GPA-Springfield adopted out Colby, Cutter, Crissy and Carter. Ringneck and Cole were adopted through Rescued Racers in St. Louis. There is one more littermate named Candy that was sent on an adoption haul by Kate Bressler (Greyhound Support of KC) back in 2001. We are going to try to find the adoption group she went to and see if we can make connections.

One of the traits Mimi seems to pass along, especially to the brindles, is the beautiful greying face. I hadn't seen Chrissy in about 3 years and was amazed how much she looked like Mimi.

Kelly said that Mimi started chattering as soon as she saw Colby. You wonder if they know - I'd sure like to think so. All of them got along very well on Sunday and seemed to enjoy romping together in Paula's yard.



Everyone. Left to right, Colby, Carter, Cutter, Chrissy and Mimi.



Chrissy and Mimi (aren't they spitting images!!)



Carter and Cutter



Colby

Greyt Letters



I know people often write you when there is a problem, but unfortunately that's not what you need to always hear! Here is Princess Pokey, struggling to get comfortable (it's a tough life for her, you know!). Sometimes, she'll spend hours shifting from her chair, to the couch, to the bed, trying to find the perfect place to sleep! Tough life!

Kevin & Allie Hillman



Alane,
Morgan is busy checking out the house, but he is missing you. He's whining a bit, but has played with some of his toys. He just laid down on a small rug near me and fell asleep (see attachment).

Thanks for bringing him down to Branson.
Mike Mitchell



Catnip was originally adopted to a Webb City family when the Camptown racetrack in Frontenac, KS closed. Apparently his first family "just didn't want him anymore" and left him at a local shelter. The shelter was telling everyone he was five, but really he was ten! GPA-MO found a home for him with Peggy Levin who runs Personalized Greyhounds, Inc in Pennsylvania.

GPA President - Alane Shultz

Mon - Fri 6am - 7pm

Sat 8am - 4pm

Sun 8am - 12pm

Phone 417-883-8156 (with recorder)

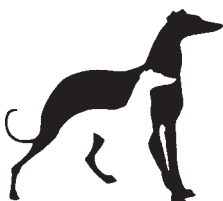
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Computer/Layout:

Liz Ardell



Recently adopted Einstein and his new family, The Blauvelts. Einstein was a recipient of a \$500.00 grant to mend his broken hock. We received these funds from the GPA Emily Griffin Memorial Injury Fund.

Making Dogs with Epilepsy Happier: A Successful New Treatment Option

Animal News, Vol. 3, No. 4 The Morris Animal Foundation



Tennis Maynard considers himself a light sleeper, thanks to the noises of many puppies and adult dogs who have shared his life. When he awoke to a thump at the end of his bed several years ago, Tennis discovered his

beloved Shar-Pei, Nu Gai (New Guy), having an epileptic seizure. Tennis says the experience was frightening, but he was optimistic that Nu Gai's behavior was simply a reaction to falling off the bed. Over the next few weeks, however, Nu Gai's seizures became more frequent, so Tennis scheduled an appointment with his veterinarian.

Although the diagnosis of epilepsy was devastating, Tennis found hope in a referral to a Morris Animal Foundation-funded study at The Ohio State University. Dr. Phil March and his colleagues were evaluating bromide as a potential new anti-epilepsy drug that they hoped would trigger fewer side effects than phenobarbital, the most commonly prescribed treatment. In the short term, phenobarbital can cause lethargy, increased appetite or thirst, and increased urination. These symptoms usually subside after the first few weeks. Dogs on phenobarbital generally take it for the rest of their lives.

According to Dr. March, "The big problem with phenobarbital is liver toxicity in the long term. It is often life threatening if it's not tended to right away." The liver doesn't metabolize bromide, though, which eliminates the risk of long-term liver or kidney toxicity. Bromide is already commonly used in concert with phenobarbital to treat canine epilepsy. But Dr. March and his colleagues are finding that the drug, when used alone, has an equal or better effect on dogs with this disease.

As a patient in Dr. March's study, Nu Gai started bromide treatment for epilepsy in February 2002. Since then, the treatment has reduced his frequent and violent seizures to just one mild seizure per month. That's a level Tennis finds more manageable – and much less frightening.

Susan Kelly's dog also found success with this treatment. Casper, a female Labrador Retriever, has been seizure-free since starting bromide therapy. Administering the oral bromide with Casper's food is easy, says Susan, and she's thrilled with the results.

"Casper's happy, and nothing has really changed as far as her personality goes, other than maybe that she's a tad more lazy," says Susan.

Epilepsy usually strikes dogs between one and five years old. There is no known cure, but genetics are believed to play a part. Epilepsy in dogs is usually characterized by seizures, typically involving whole body convulsions.

Dr. March says bromide therapy for dogs with epilepsy is available to veterinarians immediately and costs no more than phenobarbital treatments. If your dog has epilepsy,

please share this article with your veterinarian. The details of the study will become public when Dr. March publishes his final results in a peer-reviewed journal within the next few months.

"I want to thank Morris Animal Foundation for funding the study," Tennis Maynard says. "I think it has probably helped a lot of people. I know it made a big difference for Nu Gai and myself." We hope it will help a lot of other people and their pets too.



**12TH ANNUAL GPA -
SPRINGFIELD, MO
REUNION PICNIC
Saturday June 5
3:30 to 7:30 pm**

**2016 S. Arlington Terrace
Springfield, MO**

We have special Silent Auctions with some greyt greyhound merchandise. Plus some special one-time items for sale in the greyhound store that have been donated by many of our greyhound vendor friends! We'll have a group picture taken and nail cuttings. We'll even have an individual photo session for the whole family! Individual portraits (family, pets or both) and unlimited poses at no cost, actual prints will cost:

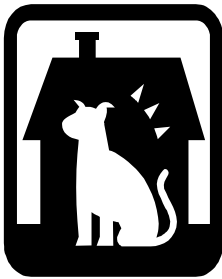
- 1 - 4x6 small glossy color = \$4.95
- 1 - 5x7 & 4 wallets = \$9.95
- 1 - 8x10 = \$9.95

The General Raffle tickets will be drawn then as well. Greyhounds can be off leash - but must be muzzled. **Don't forget your muzzle!** If the weather is warm enough, you and your greyhound can take a dip in the pool.

We'll be bringing in BBQ and we'll grill veggie burgers and hot dogs. We'll also provide tableware and drinks. **Please bring a side dish - salad, chips, beans, or a dessert.** We have tents set up, chairs, a fanned lounging area for the greyhounds, restrooms, poop buckets for you to use, water buckets for the dogs and a gate keeper to help you in and out with your greyhound. Bring your sunscreen, camera – children welcome, greyhound dogs only, please. Bring a date or a friend.

Get to know other greyhound adopters and bring lots of money for BARGAINS. THIS IS OUR LARGEST SINGLE MONEY RAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR. ALL FUNDS HELP GREYHOUNDS WAITING FOR HOMES! Help make this a success! We want you to come and have a greyt time. We need your support! Let us know if you plan to attend!

A \$2.00 donation per person is appreciated - payable at the entrance gate! **Rain make up date is June 19, same time and place.**



Interested in Fostering a Recently Retired Greyhound?

We've recently lost a couple of foster homes due to them failing Fostering 101 (They adopted their fosters.) That is wonderful and greyt, but we need to recruit a couple of new foster homes. If you've been thinking about doing this or would like more information, please let me know. Our Foster Manual is in the files section on this Yahoo Site! Please contact Alane if you're interested.

Think about it!

It's very rewarding to help a new greyhound find his forever home.

ArtsFest

Saturday & Sunday, May 1 - 2, 2004

We will have a booth at this year's ArtsFest on Walnut Street in Springfield, MO.



Our craft for kids during ArtsFest will be designing pet neckerchiefs. A child will be able to choose from small, medium and large size bandanas for their pet. Then using paint pens, glitter, glue and fabric borders/ribbons they can customize their neckerchief!

We are still needing paint pens, dimensional paint or other decorations for fabric. If you'd like to donate these items, please bring them to Alane's house.



Go through your closets and drawers! We're always in need of items to re-sell at Lynette Copeland's Classy Rags Resale Shop in Bolivar! Just leave items on Alane's front porch.

Our Annual Raffle

We will be holding our annual raffle at the Reunion Picnic on June 5, 2004. If you would like a complete list of raffle items, please see the website. If you are wanting tickets to sell, please contact Alane at agreyhound@mindspring.com



\$6 for 5 or \$1 ea.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year! Please help us raise money to find responsible homes for waiting retirees. The gifts are not all pet-related - now is the time to ask from those at work whom you've bought Girl Scout cookies and Boy Scouts popcorn!

Greyhounds in Shelters

Within 2 weeks and with the help of Teddy Palmer in Tulsa, we've rescued 2 greyhounds out of shelters! One was in Owasso, OK and one was in Ponca City, OK. Cookie is a fawn female and we placed her here already. She is a sweet girl! Bullet will be 4 in July and Teddy bailed him out of jail Saturday, March 20. He will be fostered by a GPA - Spfd. MO volunteer in Fayetteville. Bullet is a big gentle boy and gets along with cats and small dogs. Thanks to everyone that lets us know about these greyhounds and also to www.petfinder.org! This is a greyt data base and has hundreds of shelters listed with current dogs in them. This web site makes it easy to find our greyhounds stuck in shelters!

