



Northwest Greyhound Advocate Program

"Bridging the gap from track to forever home!"

- ▶ *Greyhound Education*
- ▶ *Adoption Information*
- ▶ *Owner Support*

www.no-gap.org or info@no-gap.org

We, the members of Northwest Greyhound Advocate Program (NO-GAP), want to celebrate the many events and accomplishments of the past year. From our Pet First Aid Seminar, yard sale fundraiser, and year ending Santa Parade, it's our hope that you are kept informed by reading this year in review news letter. While reading this news letter, if you have any questions, comments and or concerns, please contact an NOGAP representative.

Thank you,
Antonio Aguirre

"We walked till our paws hurt"

- Katie Kusske

On Saturday, May 5, 2007, Dave, Katie, Ethan, Cynthia, Baby Girl Kusske along with Antonio Aguirre, James Ducker, Shilo and Lila dared to encounter the opening of the Grandview and Soundview trails in University Place.

We encountered many walkers with their own dogs along the way and made only a few doggie stops for photo ops as our group was a big hit with the young and old alike. When has anyone ever seen a Greyhound walk away from being pet or praised, today the gang had plenty of that to last for ages.

So now that we had arrived, it was time to take on the "Soundview Trail. There are two options of starting points, one is off of the Soundview Trail Overlook Plaza, and the other off the Grandview trails. Either gives you a starting or ending point. The trail takes you up and down through wooded areas that wind along the waterfront with trains blasting by giving you a front row view of the new golf course. We walked in the area's that had been used when it was the Pioneer Gravel Company.

This trail has been considered best for the serious walkers, bikers and runners, there is no room for slackers I found! I must say that upon starting this walk, it looked fairly casual, no problem I said to myself and Ethan who is our 7 year old Greyhound. We should be able to do this...little did I and Antonio know that when we were giggling at the people coming up as we were going down that there were several hills waiting around the bend! There were stops that we made where I was in awe of the views that I've never seen before; even when I would walk on the upper trails. I had no idea how splendid the view could be. Towards the end, all the dogs' tongues were hanging way out of their mouths as mine was starting to do while I wondered to myself "are we there yet"?



Pet First Aid Seminar Review

- Katie Kusske

On May 19, 2007, No-Gap introduced a fundraiser in the form of a First Aid class for pet owners. The class was hosted at the Kusske residence. We sent out invitations via e-mail to many dog owners but only 8 RSVP's came in and only 6 people participated along with the Kusske's Greyhound Ethan who volunteered as the patient at times. We felt that after the Greyhound attack in Lakewood happened that this would be beneficial for pet owners to learn more about the basic do's and don'ts with pet first aid.

The event was sponsored by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the Instructor was Thomas Pace, who is the Director of Training as well as a Certified Instructor.

I found the information to be very informative as I've taken some Vet. Tech classes and worked with

our veterinary on several of my own Greyhounds.

It can be very scary on what to do in a situation where your dog is involved. Who to call and how this could have been avoided. Many of the ingredients leading to a poisonous situation are right under our noses in our homes, garages and yards. Who would have known that the lily of the valley, rhododendron, azalea, foxglove and many more plants can be cardio-toxic to our pets? How many of us know that Rhubarb leaves and Shamrock can cause kidney failure, there are even some species of mushrooms that can cause liver failure!!! These facts were just the beginning of many facts that we learned at the class.

Ethan participated by letting each of us learn how to muzzle a dog with a looped muzzle that one can do with a leash, necktie, pantyhose, ace

bandage or belt. In doing this, we learned how to make the muzzle work, to know when to use a muzzle in first aid and when not to even try. Ethan also participated in letting each of us wrap his "injured" leg...Good job Ethan!!

The class also taught us how to assess the emergency scene for safety, how to alert authorities or an animal care provider, how to attend to the ABC's (airway, breathing and circulation) along with the many situations that I could not believe animal owners might have to deal with some day. As a result of this class, I can now say that my first aid kit is now very complete and I have a much better idea on how to handle certain situations.

NOGAP will be looking at hosting this type of fundraiser/class in the future.

Pet Insurance Findings You Need To Know

- Katie Kusske

We've all been there when it's time to pay the bill at the Vets. office. We look at the amount, and think, why I don't have Insurance for my dog? Man that sure would take a load off the \$400.00 bill that I just had to pay for teeth cleaning. I have thought this many times myself, especially in the past when I've taken my Greyhounds to the emergency clinic late at night. I have done some research that I feel will be helpful in making the decision that many of us have considered time after time but still wonder if we should or shouldn't. It all comes down to the fact that if our loveable companion was seriously injured or ill, would you have the finances to cover all the expenses? Most pet insurance policies begin in the \$2,000.00 range and can easily run over \$6,000.00. While this does not sound like a great deal (add up your last 2 years of pet bills) you have to remember that insurance companies hate risks and pet risks are very high. Sadly for most, that in the end, we will not receive enough benefits to compensate for your premium.

Looking for an alternative, you can try to put aside funds every month to help with the costs as they always seem to come at a time of year when we least expect them. It can be hard to put aside the funds for some, but technology in the medical field has evolved greatly. This is great news for us humans as well as for our furry friends. Though expensive, some Veterinarians can suggest alternative treatments and tests, these solutions still can require a hefty wallet. In doing my research, I found that it is similar to what people have with their own health insurance plans. No matter what kind of pet insurance you choose, you will always have to pay continuous deductibles and premiums. Keep in mind, most pre-existing conditions will be excluded. I found information on 2 popular plans available, PetPlan and VPI Pet insurance.



PetPlan policies provide reimbursement for all veterinary fees relating to treatment administered by a licensed veterinarian for any illness or injury (providing that it is not pre-existing). This includes the following: Hospitalization, surgery, diagnostic testing (MRI, x-ray & endoscopy), cancer treatment, non-routine dental treatment (tooth extraction, root canal) but not teeth cleaning, prescription meds, referral and specialist treatments, and alternative and complementary treatments (acupuncture, hydrotherapy). They offer 3 plans such as the Bronze, Silver and Gold plans. Each list a different Maximum Annual Benefit amount ranging from \$8,000.00-\$20,000.00. They do on-line quotes, see "Petplan Pet Health Insurance" on the USA website for further information.

VPI policies provide reimbursement for accidents, illnesses, diagnostics, prescription medications, surgeries, hospitalization, cancer treatments, vaccinations, annual exams, prescription flea control, spay/neuter and teeth cleaning. They offer 2 plans such as the Standard and the Superior plans. Each list a different monthly or annual rate, for the superior

plan or the standard plan. Both have a deductible of \$50.00 per incident. They do on-line quotes see "petinsurance.com" and go to VPI.

I did some research to see about a plan for one of my own Greyhounds through VPI. I used Baby Girl who is 3 years old. With the Superior plan the annual fee is \$338.00 or monthly at \$30.17, the Standard plan the annual fee is \$233.00 or monthly at \$21.42. I then added another one of my Greyhounds, Ethan who was 8 years old in December. Under the Superior plan the annual fee is \$405.00 or monthly at \$35.75, the Standard plan the annual fee is \$261.00 or monthly at \$23.75. Both plans give discounts at the time of payment, these are listed on your quote. The difference in cost is very obvious between the Superior or the Standard. It was about \$105.00 for Baby Girl and \$144.00 for Ethan on the annual cost.

So here are the facts in black and white all laid out so each of us can come to our own decision in our own time. I myself still do not have insurance for my "4" Greyhounds. I'm still under the impression that nothing expensive will happen to mine! I should know better for I've had several Greyhounds with severe teeth problems, cancer and the list can go on but my struggle is human vs animal in the insurance world. I just want the facts out there for all to review and maybe in the future we can talk insurance premiums at the park.

Goblins and Witches Oh My!!!



It was on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at the Lakewood Petco that I saw some very interesting costumes. Today was the day that the annual Animal Halloween Costume contest was held. Jenny Kilen and I had set up our adoption booth hosting "Clue" as the NOGAP Greyhound in waiting. My greyhound Ethan was there along with Jenny's greyhounds Bill and Cleo. All 4 dogs including Clue got along great at our monthly meet and great, several people stopped by asking questions while petting the dogs. Two adoption packets went out to interested folks hoping to own our "Clue". At the stroke of 2pm, the Halloween Costume

contest got started. Ethan was a Bumble Bee, Bill was Zorro, Cleo was a Harem girl and Clue was dressed up as a Surfer Chick. All the animals were called up to prance in front of the judges, and then photos were taken courtesy of Petco. We saw Witches, Lobsters, Super Dog, Pimp, Construction dude, and a Starbucks barista. It wasn't your ordinary costume displays, they were all very creative. Alas our dogs didn't win, but they sure looked cute. Goodie bags and special treats were given to each participant so the wait was worth it for everyone. I really enjoyed talking to all the parents as we waited for the results from the judges. Take it from me, sometimes it can be fun to get a little silly and dress our 4 legged friends up, but hey what can I say the next even is the Santa Parade and boy oh boy is that even fun!!