

Ticks That Ruin Time

Please Read & Consider

Editor's note:

This article was put together from a variety of sources; most notable were the information provided by our own Dr. Harry Newman and the several fine articles published by Susan Netboy and Lynda Adame. Dr. Newman has already forwarded a professional note to his veterinary colleagues in the area, so this article has been written for our BGA family members.

Probably all of us remember our mothers fretting about our playing in the woods, picking up ticks and getting Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. In the past decade or so we've also read more and more about the spread, and growing recognition of Lyme disease. Most people are at least vaguely aware, or not surprised to hear, that these diseases can affect our pets as well as ourselves.

Even more recently, there has been (depending on your sense of time) a rapid to explosive recognition of two additional tick-borne diseases called Ehrlichiosis and Babesiosis. Not to frighten anyone, the emphasis here is on recognition, not necessarily on the spread of these diseases. These are, in fact, not new diseases. Babesiosis was, for example, recognized in the 1930's.

The most common, although not exclusive, vector for both of these diseases is the Brown Dog Tick. Other documented transmitters are the Deer Tick, blood transfusions, contaminated equipment and needles, and transplacental (mother-to-pup) infection. Given the ubiquitousness of these vectors and the life style and stress to which the typical racing greyhound is exposed, it is not surprising that these particular animals appear to have much higher rates of infection than other canines (in many instances, 40 percent, or more, of dogs tested).

Much as with Lyme disease, the vagaries and subtleness of the symptoms have, until recently, resulted in these diseases frequently being misdiagnosed or simply overlooked. It has been common that they either manifest themselves so subtly and are, therefore, unnoticed or so acutely that the animal dies, or is too far gone, before a diagnosis is obtained. The symptoms of the two diseases can resemble each other and can be easily confused with yet other diseases. The symptoms typically present themselves in three phases:

Acute Phase. This is the initial stage (for the racer, usually on the farm or in the kennel) where the animal becomes infected and either dies, or its immune system is able to fight back to a point of equilibrium and it enters the next phase.

Subclinical Phase. In this phase the animal's immune system is generally able to keep the infection in check. There may be an occasional fever or loss of appetite episode, but few other outward signs of the diseases.

Chronic Phase. If the diseases go undiscovered and untreated or the animal's immune system is unable to suppress it, the infection can gain a stronger foothold. Here, after many months or years the animal can slide into a downward spiral that manifests itself in a variety of ways (lethargy, a loss of condition, digestive problems or loss of appetite, respiratory problems, skin problems, a spectrum of blood abnormalities, etc.). Alternatively, if the animal becomes stressed by other factors such as surgery, over exertion or another disease, and the immune system is taxed to deal with other duties, Babesiosis or Ehrlichiosis can flare up and accelerate the animal's decline.

In large measure, the problem of missed diagnosis arises from the fact that even the very comprehensive blood testing that can be performed in the veterinary clinic or at most laboratories (and which has been routinely performed by BGA on incoming racers) can only offer hints of these diseases' potential presence. Indicators such as low white counts, low platelet counts and increased liver enzymes can be detected and may be a consequence of the subject diseases. However, these can also be indicators of many other conditions, and a definitive signature of the babesia protozoan or the ehrlichia rickettsia does not present itself in these tests.

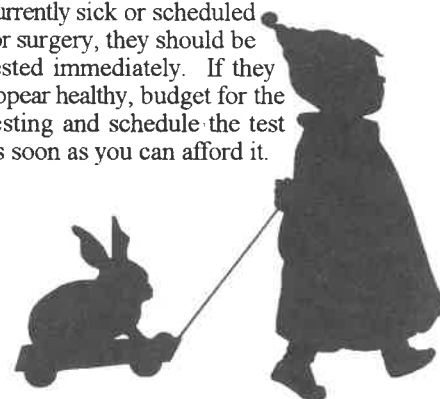
As we have come to (perhaps dangerously) expect, science has come to the rescue. Commerce, general veterinary medicine and general public awareness, however, lag somewhat behind.

There is a test, the Indirect Fluorescent Antibody (IFA) assay, that is reliable in identifying all four of the tick-borne diseases named here. (Actually, it is a suite of four similar analyses that can be run separately, or in parallel, and

should be requested accordingly.) Unfortunately, the procedure requires the laboratory to make a considerable investment in equipment and personnel training. As of this writing, there are only two or three labs in the country offering the analysis. The lowest lab fees we've come across are on the order of \$45-\$50. Your vet must cover their costs to draw, spin down, pack, ship, track and record the results. As such, combined fees on the order of \$75-\$90 can be expected.

There is a treatment as well. Once identified, Ehrlichiosis can be successfully treated with Tetracycline, or preferably, with Doxycycline. Doxycycline is a narrow spectrum antibiotic and may not be on every vet's shelf. It can be obtained, however, and is relatively inexpensive. At present, Babesiosis is the problem. There is some, not fully substantiated, suggestion that Doxycycline has also been a viable treatment for Babesiosis. However, clearly the drug of choice is Imidocarb Dipropionate. Here, however, we have a familiar bad news story. While the drug has, for some time, been used successfully overseas, it is not yet approved by the FDA for general use in the U.S. BGA (and many others) is working on this problem. If your greyhound is diagnosed with Babesiosis, contact any of the Board members, or have your vet contact Dr. Harry Newman at (716) 633-7123 for further information.

What should you do? The BGA Board of Directors has decided that this is a serious situation and will now be testing all new incoming greyhounds for the diseases discussed here. (How these costs are to be covered is a separate challenge that we will have to face, but is not regarded as grounds for inaction.) It is recommended that every owner also have their greyhound(s) tested as well. If your racer is currently sick or scheduled for surgery, they should be tested immediately. If they appear healthy, budget for the testing and schedule the test as soon as you can afford it.



Oh...Mr. & Ms. Grey....
Would you like to come to my parade?
(See page 7.)

We're Nothing With out You

Lots of people have noticed that it has been a long time since the last Off Track Pets was published. You may also notice that we are a little skinnier than previous issues. This is because contributions are way off. And, we don't mean the financial kind.

We started OTP to bring news of importance to the attention of our BGA family, to give notice of fun or informative events and to share the joy of having a retired racer. We can do the layout and we can give notice of the upcoming events. But, we need YOU to help us with the heart-warming, the neat-to-know and the fun stuff.

Please send your stories, poems, fun facts, art work and unique photos to OTP for inclusion in the next issue. Don't worry none 'bout spellen, gramer and punctuation. We can fix that. Just pour out your heart, or share a laugh and let us hear from you.

**If you go out in the woods today....
.... you'd better not take your take your grey!**

*The thirty-first Canute Law
enacted at Winchester in 1016.*

"No meane person may keepe any greihounds, but freeman may keepe greihounds, so that their knees may be cut before the verderons of the forest, and without cutting of their knees also, if he does not abide ten miles from the bounds of the forest. But if they doe come any nearer to the forest, they shall pay twelve pence for every mile; but if the greihound be found within the forest, the master or owner of the dog shall forfeit the dog and ten shillings to the King."

(Proof positive that it was lawyers that started greyhounds running in circles!)



**Victoria's Secret ain't got nothin' on us!
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BGA Boutique Brochure**

**Get In A Summer
Frame Of Mind
BGA'S
PAWS FOR A PICNIC V
July 27, 1996
Hickory Park
On The North Side Of
The Erie County
Fairgrounds
Volunteers Needed
Call Betsy Schroeder
(716) 695-9822**

Thanks to all the BGA Greyhound Ambassadors for an outstanding job in 1995

If you are interested in bringing smiles to those confined to nursing homes, hospices and hospitals, please contact Bev Newsom - (716) 662-5464 or Donna Drabek - (716) 684-7658.

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majordomo@mail.eworld.com

In the body of the message type:
subscribe greyhound-1 *firstname lastname*
[A]

A Breed Apart - *Excellent!*
<http://www.pcix.com/abap/index.html>
[A]

The Needlenose Web Page - *Surf's Up!*
<http://www.gate.net/~gpa/>
[A]

Greyhound Friends NW - *Round 'em up!*
http://www.halcyon.com/greyhnds/gfn_home.html

Welcome to the Family

Bambi Ahr
Jams Armstrong
Ophelia Barr
Sydney Bean
Sandy Bender
Levi Bendit
Rachel Brennan
Fini Broderick
Lucy Bunyan
Trigger Butler
Spanky Campbell/Racke
Cowboy Case
Red Clauss
Bailey Clayman
Zeke Coddington
Flash Courier
Sara Crosby
Buddy Davis
Lacey Dietrich
Montana Drabeck
Boise Federico
Justy Garrett
Homer Gentile
Taylor Gerber
Isis Godfrey
Darwin Gustafson
Chrissie Heenan
Sassy Heer
Annie Hopcia

Mirage Howard
Mozark Hutzler
Cheyenne Jefferys
Rocket Kazmierzak
Winnie Kelly
Nutmeg Kossof
Task Kozlowski
Kim Kusmierz



Shadow Pallas
Tu Parcero
Hudson Payne
Tish Piechota
Richard Piskor
Baby Rebadow
Shy Rogers
Liz Rolston
Gala Russell
Dash Schneider
Dutch Schottin
Freighter Simonick
Melissa Simpson
Zorro Stewart
Je Streck

Bahama Lewandowski
Cinnamon Lewandowski
Gent Lynch
Mandy Lynch
John Henry MacDowell
Shelby Marquis
Corky Messinger
Franci Millington
Trixie Moeller
Saparro Molinaroli/Mahlstedt
Morgan Nyitrai
Bryn Olivieri
Shadow Orsini

Beth Sullivan/Mocera
Valerie Tarnowski
Bud Telis/Mavins
Cody Terpin
Jon Thompson
Striper Tibbitts
Bene Uhrinek
Misty Walker
Taz Walsh
King Walworth
Daisy Webber/Pawlowski
Teddy Whatmough
Mo Williams
Sydney Wilson

Over the Rainbow Bridge

I got to the gate of heaven yesterday
 after we said goodbye.
 I began to miss you terribly,
 because I heard you cry.
 Suddenly there was an angel and she asked me
 to enter heaven's gate,
 I asked her if I could stay outside
 for someone who'd be late.
 I wouldn't make much noise you see,
 I wouldn't bark or howl,

I'll only wait here patiently
 and play with my tennis ball.
 The angel said I could stay right here
 and wait for you to come
 Because heaven just wouldn't be heaven
 if I went in alone.
 So I'll wait here, you take your time,
 but keep me in your heart.
 Because heaven just wouldn't be heaven
 without you to warm my heart.

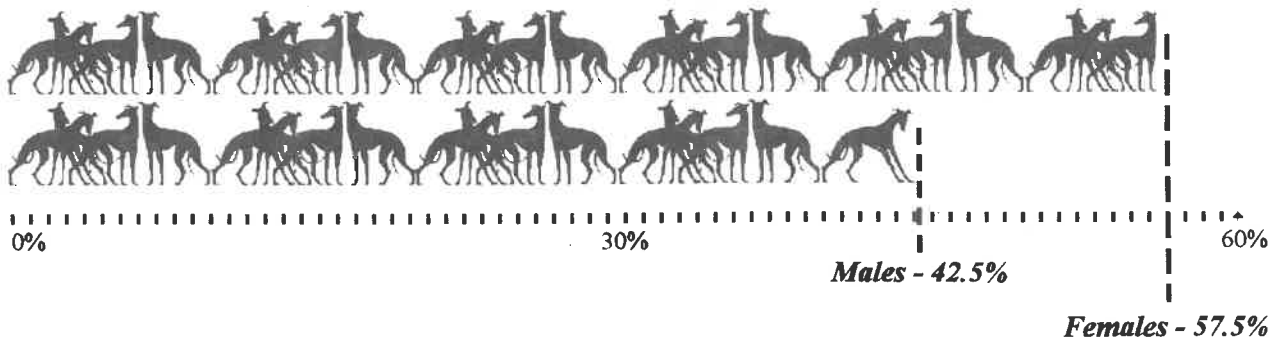
Just this side of Heaven...

Al
Bella
Bullet
Cinch
Cleo
Corky
Dawn
Dibs
Duke
Egypt
Emmett
Fantasy
Frankie
Fred

George
Harley
Herbie
Jake
Joe Joe
Judy
Kelly
Lilith
Loafer
Maggie
Magie
Mardy

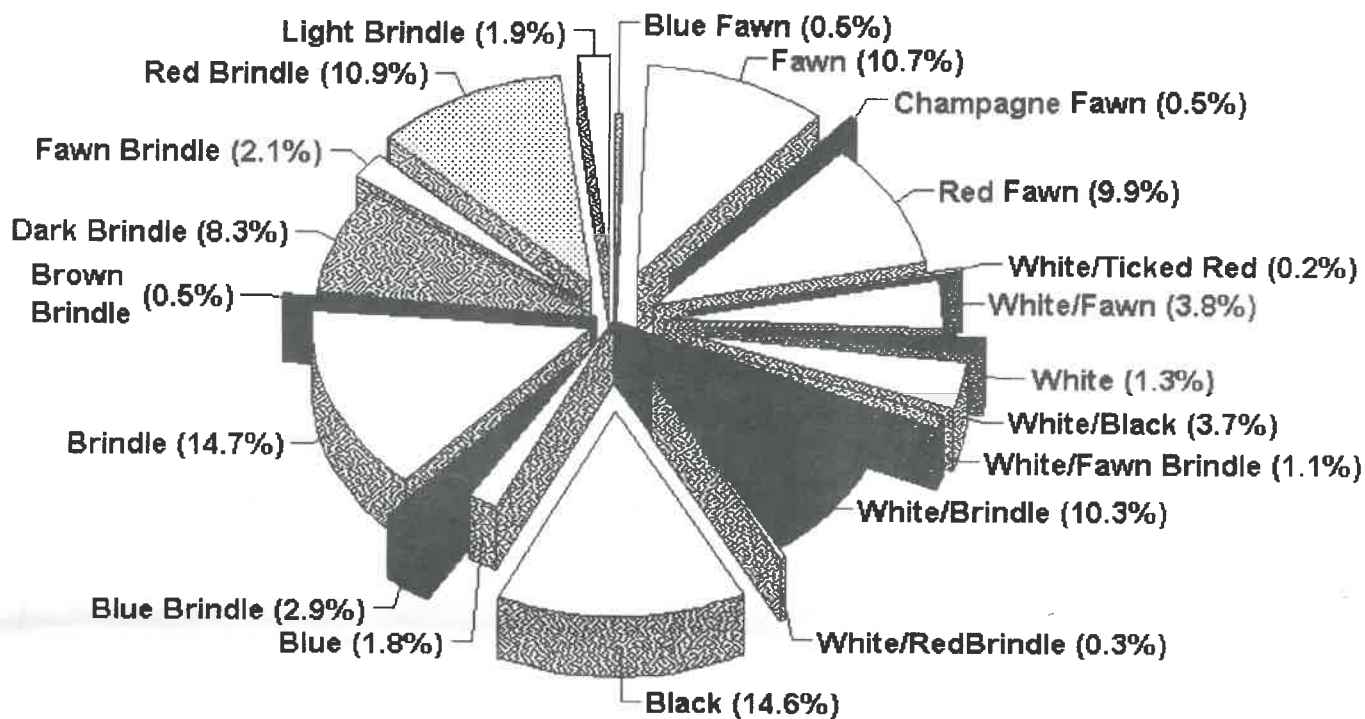
Marquee
Myla
Ref
Rocky
Rowdy
Sally Wags
Shakespeare
Sissy
Snipper
Snowy
Spirit
Spooky
Sterling
Topaz

Editor's Note: This list goes back for at least three years. We were concerned about causing painful memories, but we did not want to slight anyone of whom we knew. If we did miss anyone, or if in the future you should lose your pet, please send a note providing the details to: Charlene Marvin, 68 Lein Road, West Seneca, NY 14224.



BGA - Rendered By Gender

BGA's Shades of Grey



Greyhound Sleep Study

by: Helene Graustark

According to a scientific study I have recently conducted (for you statisticians, $p \leq 0.5$, and all that technical stuff), I have concluded the following concerning sleep behavior in greyhounds:

1. 98% of greyhounds who share their human's bed will sleep in a perpendicular position relative to the human with whom they are cohabitating.
2. 95% of greyhounds who share their human's bed will occupy the central portion of said bed, completely disrupting any chance of said human obtaining a good night's sleep with any semblance of a normal sleeping position (e.g., in a straight line).
3. 92% of greyhounds who share their human's bed will assume a sleeping position with their respective butts situated in

their respective human's face for the duration of the night.

4. Of the above mentioned butt-positioned greyhounds, 100% will, at some point during the sleep cycle, emit undesired noises and odors in the direction of their human (i.e., GH gas).
5. 100% of the humans who share their greyhound's bed will continue to abide by this behavior, finding themselves waking up in the morning (or sooner) in the shape of a pretzel with mustard, having been relegated during the night to one isolated quadrant (25% or less) of the bed. The pillow will, 75% of the time, have been removed by the greyhound for its own use.

Granted, a small cohort (study group) was used in formulating the results of this study: five greyhounds to be exact. (See study participant's names and comments on the subject, below.) But, the author is interested to know if anyone else has conducted a similar

study and come up with similar results? I ask this after arising today in a most painful, unnatural position, although my sprawled, prostrate beasts seemed to be waiting for a butler to appear with their suntan oil and shades.....

Study Subjects

Dakota: "I'm alpha; I only allow my Mom on the bed out of the goodness of my blue brindle heart."

Geisha: "I sleep upside down on the couch downstairs; I shouldn't have been included in this study!"

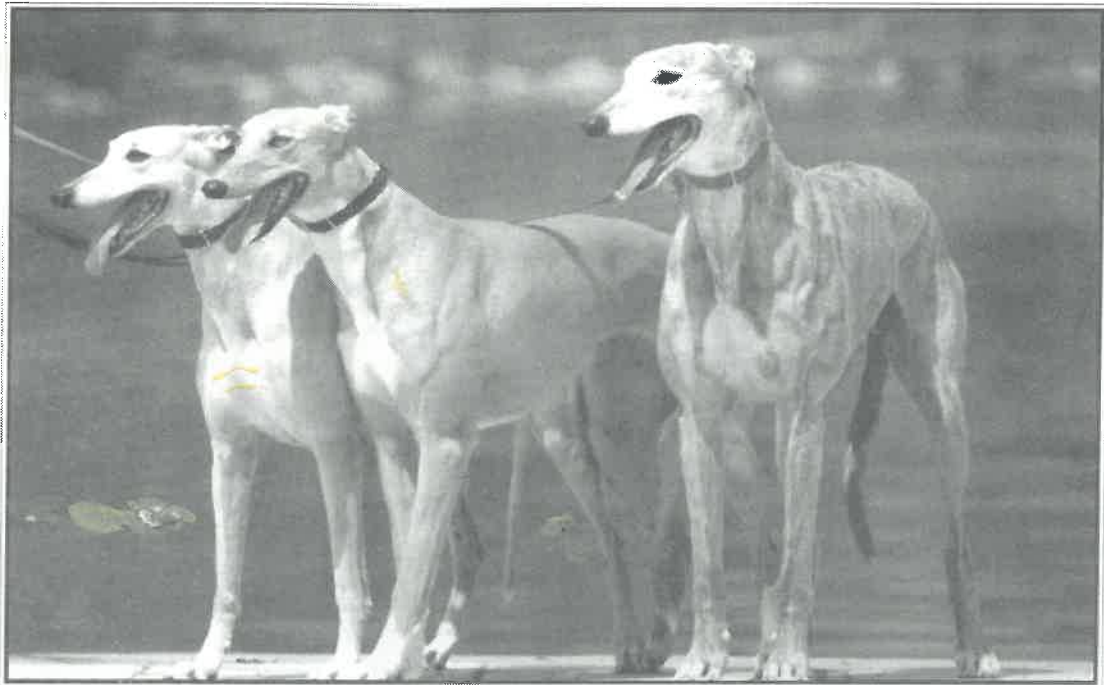
Robyn: "I sleep next to Mom with my head (usually) under her pillow. And I snore."

Arielle: "I'm a slut; I sleep somewhere different every night."

Ruby: "I sleep the closest to Mom; she can describe every square inch of my butt...."



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1996

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DOG BISCUITS

by Sue Piechota

- 2-1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup non-fat dry milk-powdered
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 6 tbsp oleo
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup cold water

Mix all ingredients with cold water. Knead for 3 minutes. Dough should form a ball. Roll to 1/2" thick and cut into dog bones. Bake on a lightly greased cookie sheet for 30 minutes at 350 degrees F.

Variations

Add 3 tbsp of liver powder or powdered chicken or beef bouillon or dried soup greens or dried soup mix.

Review by Alaska & Krissy Graham

We highly recommend the chicken variation and the dried vegetable soup mix flavor. We wait in the kitchen while Mom bakes them,

then have to wait more while they cool. It's well worth the wait -- they're DELICIOUS!

Help Wanted

Project Manager to promote safe and secure *Greyhound Playgrounds* in state, county and municipal parks and open spaces. Position requires a concept-to-reality commitment, an ability organize and strong people skills. If you are a team builder and have the power of persuasion, this rewarding position is for you! Some "how to" guidance available; you take it from there. Call Pete Newsom (716) 662-5464.

Marketing Maven needed to support BGA's fund raising efforts. The dedicated, enthusiastic and hard working Fund Raising Committee needs the support of someone "who's been there before." If you're a marketing "pro" and can conceptualize, evaluate and plan the successful promotion of the group, its events and products, please call Donna Drabek (716) 684-7658.

An Angel with ink under their nails is needed to help secure **printing services** for BGA's brochures, forms and flyers. Please make yourself known to Carolyn Pillard (716) 681-7928

Did You Know???????????

by: Lynda Adame

Did you know that:

A Greyhound has 321 bones in its body?

A Greyhound has 42 teeth?

There is no direct bony attachment between the front limbs and the body. Actually, the body is supported between the front limbs at the level of the chest by a series of muscles that form, an effective sling?

Dew claws are rare, but not unheard of in the rear limbs?

The sesamoid bones, found at the back of front ankle, are as small as cucumber seeds?

There are 55 vertebrae (also called the caudal vertebrae) in a dogs tail?

A Greyhound has Stereoscopic vision, which is best suited for detection of movement? They often fail to see stationary objects when running.

This is a scene from last year's
Valentines Social.



Your hostess thought you would
enjoy, at least a chance of, warmer
weather. So,



Come Boogie With The Bunny !!

Saturday,
March 16
1:00 - 6:00 PM

The Grange Building
Erie County Fairgrounds
Hamburg, New York

Your racer should have a bonnet, a chapeau or other appropriate attire for the
Easter Parade. You should bring a snack or goodie to pass.

No need to RSVP.

However, call Betsy Schroeder, (716) 695-9822, with any questions.

From the North:

Take the NYS Thruway (I-90), U.S. 219 or NY Route 5 South to Mile Strip Road (Rt. 179).
Proceed West from the Thruway (Exit 56) and U.S. 219, or East from Route 5, on Mile Strip, to
South Park Avenue (U.S. 62) South. The West side entrance to the Fairgrounds is on your left,
off of South Park Avenue, roughly 5 miles South of Mile Strip.

From the South:

Take NY Route 5 or the Thruway and follow the directions as above, or U.S. 219 to NY 391
West. Follow NY 391 into the Village of Hamburg. Turn right (North) on Buffalo Street (U.S.
62 - which becomes South Park as you exit the Village). The entrance is on your right about 2
miles north of your turn onto Buffalo Street.

BE THERE...OR BE HARE!

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We encourage our readers to provide news items, articles, announcements, cartoons and other graphics.

Please send your contributions to:

Off Track Pets
149 Keller Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14217

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Also, if you would like to place an ad in our newsletter, send \$5.00 for one issue, \$20.00 for the year and send your ad or business card. (Please keep ads to business card size.)

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