

THE EASTERN
VETERINARY
BLOOD BANK
PRESENTS

MINI TASHERS

A FORUM
FOR CANINE
DONORS

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Donor Profile

By Debi Persing

Anyone who shares their life with a Greyhound, whether an ex-racer or A.K.C., should consider allowing them to volunteer as blood donors. They are such a good-natured, calm and gentle breed that they typically make awesome donors.

Currently three of our Greyhounds are donating.

Twister, our Australian Shepherd and a donor himself, is the reason that we adopted our first Greyhound. We simply wanted a companion for him. Now we share our lives with more than a couple of these wonderful dogs.

Riley and Luke, both ex-racers, began their career as donors just this year. Riley came to us as a foster hound. The plan was to acclimate him to living in a home and all of the scary things that go with that. Like puppies they need to be taught how to go up the stairs, and that you can't go through the slider while it's closed. Most catch on within days and Riley was no exception. After being with us for a month Riley became a per-



manent fixture in our home. He was a standoffish kind of boy and didn't like physical contact other than a pat on the head or back. Kisses and hugs were out of the question for the longest time. We took him with us to *Meet-n-Greets*, and for walks, and played with him and our other hounds in the back yard on a daily basis. Riley loves to play with tennis balls and he learned to play catch. If there's nobody around to toss the balls he tosses it around himself and chases it when it gets away from him. He chews them like bubble gum and, he won't come in the back door even at dinner time unless a tennis ball is tossed his way. He'll catch the ball and then happily come inside. Three years later Riley is a different dog. He

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This mailing was assembled by students in the Supported Employment Program from Central Special School.

(Donor Profile from page 1)

can't get enough attention from anyone including hugs and kisses. He loves to go to our *Meet-n-Greets* and is always eager to greet people who stop by for information about adopting Greyhounds.

For the past year Riley has been helping Luke to come out of his shell. We adopted Luke after our 11 year old hound, Bullet, passed away. Although similar in color, Luke is nothing like our Ol' Bull who was an outgoing guy. Luke was very timid when we first brought him home. He was a little hand shy and would pull away from any close contact with us. The first week that he was with us he somehow caught the tip of his ear in his kennel. Blood was flying everywhere even though the cut was small. Luke was afraid of any attempt on my behalf to help him out. The scary towel that I used to wipe him down, the gauze squares that I used to hold pressure on his ear, not to mention just feel of me holding his ear and being close to him, and he didn't like being pilled with antibiotics. He really was a spook. The other dogs were patient with him it seemed and Riley would get him to play when they were outside. And, when we brought Aubrey home at the age of 12 weeks, he thought it was great fun to chase her and her brother, Dodger, whenever he came to stay with us. He's not too picky about toys as long as it can be thrown and he can chase it although he does not love his Wiggley Giggley balls. Somehow he hooks one of his K9's in the hard plastic and carries them around the yard with him. He's turned into quite the character. He's a great jogging partner and, after a year, is finally becoming comfortable enough to help us out at the *Meets*. I was worried about him being a donor thinking that the "Old Luke" would surface. But, although he was nervous at first I think that he really enjoys the attention that he gets from Cara and Dr. Ann at E.V.B.B. He allows them to pick him up and lay him on the table without a fuss and he never even flinched the first time Dr. Ann inserted the needle to take his donation.



Donor "Twister" Persing

Not all track dogs are shy and timid like Riley & Luke. Many come right off the truck ready to enter their new homes, running up the stairs as if it were old news, and jumping on their new owners bed. They give you that look as if to say "Hey, I read the book on retirement before I left the track and I'm ready to enjoy mine!" But, there's always that special needs dog that just needs a little T.L.C. and patience to blossom into loving hounds.

Aubrey is the youngest of our hounds. At fifteen months of age she has a long career ahead of her as a blood donor. Although not an ex-racer Aubrey still goes with us on a regular basis to promote Greyhound adoption. "T.W.P. Jubilee Noble & Bright," better known as Aubrey, had hopes of becoming a show dog. But, the show world was too overwhelming for my tenderhearted girl. She was given to me to start her life as a happy house hound by Mrs. Betty Johnson, a Greyhound and Standard Poodle Breeder in Severna Park, MD. Ms. Betty felt that Aubrey would do well in our home with other hounds to play with rather than dealing with the stress and demands of a show dog. She was right. Aubrey has a submissive personality so she fits in well with our "pack." The other dogs enjoyed having a puppy to play with and our Boston Terrier, Tucker, and now Aubrey's best friend, was tickled

to have someone close to his own size to wrestle with. Of course that didn't last long as Aubrey grew like a weed. We wondered if her legs would ever stop growing! She loves small dogs but is wary of large dogs outside of her pack. But, she loves people and is very trusting of everyone. Although a little scared at first Aubrey was the perfect girl when it came to staying still the first time she donated at E.V.B.B. Now she's brave enough to even eat the treats that "Auntie Cara" offers her when we're there.

Taking the dogs to *Meet-n-Greets*, jogging, long walks, the dog park, and even donating blood has helped them to become well socialized, happy, and trusting hounds. No sitting around like a bunch of "45 mph Couch Potatoes" for these hounds. And even though Twister is not a Greyhound, he still is doing his part to help dogs who are less fortunate and maybe not as healthy as he is by donating. There's no way he's gonna let a mere Greyhound outshine him!

"A Greyhound's Wish, Inc." is a nonprofit organization dedicated to placing Ex-Racing Greyhounds into loving homes. For more information about adopting one of these wonderful dogs, please contact us at (410) 519-7300 or visit us at our web site at www.agreyhoundswish.org.



Unleashed is the quarterly newsletter of the **Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank**

Meet The Staff

Ann Schneider, DVM, Director

Patrick Lee, Jr., Chief Operating Officer

Steve Kubelun, Associate Veterinarian

Kellie Smith, Director of Regulatory Compliance

Theresa Connelly, Bookkeeper

Peggy Driver, Administrative Assistant

Barb Vernon, Donor Coordinator

Brandee Stout, Blood Collection Assistant

Keyia Ward, Veterinary Assistant

Stacey Alton, Veterinary Technician

Amie Dudley, Packaging Specialist/ Labeler

Past and Future Donor Coordinators

Tyla Shepeta joined the Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank (EVBB) in July of 1998 as the Special Projects Coordinator, bringing with her eleven years of experience as a veterinary technician. She took over the role of Donor Coordinator in 2000. During her four years at EVBB, Tyla did much to increase its visibility in the community. She expanded the website, redesigned the brochures, helped create the mission statement, and edited this quarterly newsletter. Tyla promoted the EVBB through television, radio, and print, and represented EVBB at multiple pet functions, including the recent Super Pet Expo in Chantilly, Virginia. Tyla is also responsible for the popular EVBB sweatshirts as well as the EVBB mugs, photo mouse pads, and magnets seen on the “blood mobiles.”

In addition to working with our donors, Tyla assisted in the transfusion medicine education of the veterinary community and filled in at one time or another in just about every capacity at EVBB, including packager, labeler, and blood collection assistant.

Asked what she most enjoyed about working at EVBB, Tyla says,

“meeting other people who are passionate about pets.” Tyla will continue to be a part of EVBB through her golden retriever, volunteer donor Indy. Tyla’s plans this summer include a trip to Nantucket, volunteering with the Jaycees, and spending some leisure time writing.

Although Tyla enjoyed helping promote our valuable program, she is ready to explore other career opportunities. Everyone here at EVBB wishes her great success in her future endeavors!

EVBB welcomes Barb Vernon as our new Donor Coordinator. Barb earned her bachelor’s degree in management from George Mason University and moved here from Annandale, VA six years ago. Barb previously worked in recruitment, but following the birth of her son Ryan, she was not eager to return to the hectic pace of the corporate world. Barb loves dogs and has two of her own; Lexi, a yellow Lab, and Pheobe, a beagle mix that Barb and husband Eric adopted from Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW). Barb looks forward to utilizing her recruiting experience in a meaningful way as she works to expand the EVBB donor program.



Tyla and Indy Shepeta



Barb Vernon with Lexi and Pheobe

🐾 Happenings In and Around Town 🐾

13th Annual Canine Games

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will hold their 13th Animal Canine Games on Saturday August 31, from 8am - noon. The event will be held at Ben Brenman Park, rain or shine. Dogs can participate in frisbee, catch, bowling, an obstacle course, a 40 yard dash, and an ice cream eating contest. No special training is required. There will be refreshments, vendors, K-9 demonstrations, and adoptions. Registration for dogs participating in the events is \$25 at the event or \$20 in advance. There is no charge for spectators (either human or canine) and free parking is available nearby. Information: 703-838-4774 x321.

Second off-leash dog exercise area opens in Anne Arundel County

The 2.5 acre fenced dog park opened at Broadneck Park on June 2nd. The park is divided into two areas: one side for smaller dogs and one side for larger dogs. The Broadneck Dog Park is located on College Parkway, just east of Anne Arundel Community College. The county’s first dog park opened in December of 2001. The Quiet Waters Dog Park, located in Annapolis, has been a great success. Additional county dog parks are being considered.

Reflections: The 2,548 Best Things Anybody Ever Said

For this review I'll try something a little different, I'll let the book speak for itself. *The 2,548 Best Things Anybody Ever Said*, chosen and arranged by *Robert Byrne*, is nothing if not comprehensive and varied. Here are about twenty-five samples of wit and learning.

"Psychics will lead dogs to your body."
Alleged fortune cookie message.

"Diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice doggie' until you can find a rock."
Will Rogers.

"There is no they, only us."
Bumper Sticker.

"A boy can learn a lot from a dog: obedience, loyalty, and the importance of turning around three times before lying down."
Robert Benchley.

"Man is the only animal that can remain on friendly terms with the victims he intends to eat until he eats them."
Samuel Butler.

"It isn't easy being green."
Kermit the Frog.

"I would not like to be a political leader in Russia. They never know when they're being taped."
Richard Nixon.

"God! The country that produced George Washington has got this collection of crumb-bums!"
Barbara Tuchman on the 1980 presidential candidates.

"The volume of paper expands to fill the available briefcases."
Jerry Brown.

"If Borg's parents hadn't liked the name, he might never have been Bjorn."
Marty Indik.

"The other day a dog peed on me. A bad sign."
H.L. Mencken

"The higher a monkey climbs, the more you see of its behind."
General Joseph Stilwell

"For people who like peace and quiet: a phoneless cord."
Unknown.

"Have you ever dated someone because you were too lazy to commit suicide?"
Judy Tenuta

"Nebraska is proof that Hell is full, and the dead walk the earth."
Liz Winston.

"Old age means realizing you will never own all the dogs you wanted to."
Joe Gores.

"When the cat and mouse agree, the grocer is ruined."
Persian proverb.

"All right, then, I'll say it: Dante makes me sick."
Last words of Spanish playwright Lope de Vega on being assured on his deathbed that the end was very near.

"Do not insult the mother alligator until after you have crossed the river."
Haitian proverb.

"He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I ever met."
Abraham Lincoln.

"One hundred thousand lemmings can't be wrong."
Graffito

"Thanks to the Interstate Highway System, it is now possible to travel from coast to coast without seeing anything."
Charles Kuralt.

"Television is a medium because anything well done is rare."
Either Fred Allen or Ernie Kovacs.

"Trust in Allah, but tie your camel."
Arabian proverb.

"When I was kidnapped, my parents snapped into action. They rented out my room."
Woody Allen.

"Studying literature at Harvard is like learning about women at the Mayo Clinic."
Roy Blount, Jr.

"Cabbage: A vegetable about as large and wise as a man's head."
Ambrose Bierce.

"After twelve years of therapy my psychiatrist said something that brought tears to my eyes. He said, 'No hablo ingles.'"
Ronnie Shakes.

Does My Dog Have Lyme Disease?

Lyme Disease is an infectious disease caused by the *Borrelia burgdorferi* organism. It is spread by ticks when they feed on infected animals. Recently a test kit commonly used by veterinarians to test for Heartworm and Ehrlichia (two other infectious diseases) was modified to include testing for Lyme antibodies. Since then, EVBB has been receiving calls and emails from concerned pet owners whose dogs tested positive with this kit.

Although exposure to *Borrelia burgdorferi* is fairly common in this

part of the country (as many as 75% of dogs show evidence of *exposure*¹), Lyme Disease *infection* is infrequent; only 5% of these dogs develop clinical symptoms. A common misperception is that exposure means infection.

In fact, a positive diagnosis requires four criteria:

1. exposure to deer ticks
2. clinical symptoms
3. a blood test showing antibodies to the Lyme organism
4. dramatic response to antibiotic therapy.¹

Thus, the presence of one, two, or three of these criteria *does not* mean your pet has Lyme Disease.

If your pet tests positive for Lyme Disease, this means that your dog is among the 75% of dogs showing evidence of exposure. Without the presence of the other criteria however, a diagnosis of Lyme Disease cannot be made.

¹ Plotnick, Arnold *High Time for Lyme*. Dog Fancy July 2001 pp18-19

Recipe Corner: Healthy Dog Treats

Favorite Dog Biscuits

People can eat these too, but the sugarless, salt-free dough is bitter before baking to its toasty flavored hard-texture which rivals that of bones. Peanut butter is used for flavor, egg as a binder, cereal for texture, powdered milk for nutrition and garlic for flea prevention. No salt or cornmeal since cornmeal is difficult to digest. If your dog can't tolerate eggs, add additional water to make a dough that is just slightly sticky.

- 3 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 cups multi-grain oatmeal or old-fashioned oats
- ¼ cup wheat germ
- ¼ cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 1¼ cups water
- 1 large egg (or omit and use water - see note above)
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- peanut butter to taste

Adjust a rack in the lower third of the oven and preheat to 275 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Toss the flour, oats, wheat germ and powdered milk in a large bowl to blend thoroughly. Blend water, peanut butter and egg in a food processor or blender until smooth. Add garlic to dry ingredients, then

add all dry ingredients to wet and stir until blended. Dough will be stiff, so use your hands- it will be easier. roll or pat dough into a ½ inch thickness, cut out biscuit shapes with a 3-inch bone shape cookie cutter. Reroll scraps and continue until dough is gone. Place cookies on baking sheet and bake for about 90 minutes. For crisper, drier biscuits bake a total of three hours. Store well-dried biscuits in an air-tight container — leave the container open for a few days to make sure they are completely dry. Makes three dozen delicious biscuits.

Peanut Butter Puppy Poppers

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 cup peanut butter (chunky or smooth)
- 1 cup milk

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a bowl combine flour and baking powder. In another bowl mix peanut butter and milk, then add to dry ingredients and mix well. Place dough on a lightly floured surface and knead. Roll dough to ¼ inch thickness and use a cookie cutter to cut into shapes. Bake for 20 minutes on a greased baking sheet until lightly brown. Cool on a rack, then store in

an airtight container. Be careful — they burn easily!

Harold's Oatmeal Crunchies

- Dry Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter

Mix oatmeal and peanut butter in a bowl until the oatmeal clumps into balls. Roll the mixture into small balls and place on a cookie sheet. Freeze overnight or until hard. The hard part is not eating them all in one sitting.

Augie's Cheese and Oatmeal Delights

- 4½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup oatmeal
- ½ cup cheese, melted
- ⅓ cup vegetable oil
- 6 bouillon cubes dissolved in 1½ cups water, or 1 can broth (low-sodium is good)

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Mix dry ingredients, then add oil, broth and melted cheese. Mix until dough holds together in a ball and roll out ½ inch thick. Cut out with cookie cutter. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool completely on a rack (or leave them in the oven overnight — no heat — to make them crunchy). Makes about 3 dozen medium or 4 dozen small cookies, guaranteed to disappear quickly!

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Donor "Pike" Weiss

Trivia Contest — Win an EVBB T-shirt!

This issue's trivia questions:

1. The 2002 Westminster Kennel Club *Best in Show* dog's name and breed was?
2. The Pomeranian's country of origin is?
3. The United Kennel Club revealed its 2001 registration statistics ranking which breed as No. 1?
4. *Borrelia burgdorferi* is the bacterium which causes what disease?
5. America's most flea-ridden city is?

Mail/email (eastvetbb@evbb.com) your answers by August 15th, along with your name, telephone number, and address. A winner will be drawn from the correct entries on August 30th and will receive an EVBB embroidered t-shirt.

Answers to last issue's trivia questions:

1. **Raksha** was the mother wolf that raised Mowgli.
2. **Stumpy** is the big brown dog in the Tale of Little Pig Robinson.
3. **Buck** was the main canine character in the Call of the Wild.
4. **Charley** was John Steinbeck's French Poodle.
5. **Boatswain** was Lord Byron's Newfoundland.

The winner of last issue's trivia contest was Elizabeth Collins. *Congratulations!*