



FOREVER HOME GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS



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HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE IN GREYS

(Taken from the greyhounds as pets and companions message board on aol)

Shadow was a healthy four year old greyhound. He is large, 95 pounds, but according to several vets not overweight just well muscled and fit. Because he had a different conformation than other most greys, I have endured the typical, "oh he's too fat" or "Don't you think he needs to lose a few pounds" and my favorite, "how much do you feed that dog?". The answer to the latter is two cups of moist kibble 2X a day with a small amount of cooked, skinless chicken cut up on top.

When Shad collapsed on Monday, I just knew it was due to something I had done or not done. Partly I was correct but not because I knowingly omitted to request the vet do a procedure that requires exactly two minutes. Request that the vet take Shadows blood pressure. The only reason I even knew about GH high blood pressure was because our Chessie had an episode about 6 months ago where she could/would not stand up and walk. I did suspect a stroke, only because I have had a GH that had a stroke previously but she was 10 years old. Chessie was not 7 and Shadow is only 4.

These recent circumstances have led me to understand that taking a greyhound's blood pressure should indeed be included in EVERY vet visit. We as layman, have very little to gauge how well our GH are doing with their blood pressure. It requires a medical mechanical device that is not in the everyday arsenal of GH health needs.

Could I have prevented Shad from having a stroke? Maybe not, but I most certainly would and am willing to have this procedure done on every GH that owns me from now on. If it prevents one person or GH from going through the torment that I experienced in the last few days, I will shout from the roof tops...GET YOUR GH BP TAKEN AT EVERY VISIT!! DO NOT let your vet brush off your request.

Let me set the stage for you. Shadow stood up from a perfectly wonderful morning at 3 PM, propelled himself across a 14X30 sunroom because he had no other way to tell me he needed help. He staggered into the furniture, almost going to the floor before I reached him to support his huge frame. Seeing the abject fear in his eyes, not to mention all the things that flashed thru

This information is designed to provide valuable information about caring for your Greyhound. Questions and concerns may be directed to either Paula 518-261-7025 or Martha 518-883-5554. Remember be kind and be patient and you will discover a joy beyond belief as you watch your new Greyhound blossom and flourish under your loving guidance.

my mind, is enough for me to become determined to stop this from happening to another person or dog.

Because we were unaware of the high blood pressure, Shad had a stroke (a blood clot thrown by his heart beating extra fast, traveled through his brain and body reeking havoc as it went. Luckily for us, Shad is/was a very healthy dog and was able to fight his way through and come out with only minor visible evidence of the stroke. My Amy Lou, had months of home therapy and learning everything over again, even how to drink water, eat, poop, etc. and she was 10. Imagine a knife stabbing in your chest every time your dog needs to go potty, she cannot do the simplest thing for herself. Just walking across the floor took such great effort on her part. Shad does not show the drastic effects, high blood pressure, stroke can leave behind.

I urge everyone to have a baseline BP done on your GH and when you go to the vet, insist on having the BP check as part of its yearly evaluation if not more often. Not only are you likely to save your pets life, make it a safer happier relationship but you can save yourselves tons of money in the bargain. Below is a list of costs involved in diagnostics related to high blood pressure and stroke. thanks for taking the time to read this and if I keep just one animal from suffering what Shadow and Chessie and my beloved Amy (dog bless her at the Bridge) endured, I will consider my efforts a success.

BP Monitoring at the vet visit \$22 - \$25

MRI to detect damage done by stroke \$1900 (plus transport to facility having equipment)

CT Scan to determine if stroke is cause or intervertebrete disc disease is cause \$500 - \$800

Canine version of Spinal Tap to see if infection, inflammation, blood present in spinal fluid \$400 - \$600

Sonogram to determine if blood clots in vital organs or damage by blood clots \$375 - \$500

Regular vet fee ?

Emergency/referral fee \$150 - \$180

Specialist evaluation \$150 - ?

Surgery or procedures needed to correct problem \$\$\$\$\$\$

Pain & SufferingPriceless and open wounds.

NOTE: Normal blood pressure is about 160, this dog's was 245

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