

# News and Roos

From

## GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.



DECEMBER 2012

Issue #10



*From all of us at GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc. we want to wish you the happiest of holidays!*

*Because of the heart and dedication of our volunteers and adopters, many greyhounds will be enjoying the holidays in their forever homes. We wish that all greyhounds everywhere could find forever homes to enjoy the retired life, especially during the holiday season.*

*Our continued success depends not only on the work done by our volunteers, but on fundraising efforts as well. The holidays are a season of giving, and we hope that you will remember GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds in your holiday giving.*



*2012 was a greyt year for us with so many greyhounds finding forever homes with wonderful families, and to recognize 2012, please consider a donation of \$12.00 for each greyhound in your family to enable us to help other greyhounds. We will recognize all donations in our first 2013 newsletter.*

*GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that relies on donations to continue our efforts in greyhound rescue. Your tax-deductible donation is very important to us. Won't you please look into the eyes of your greyhound(s) and consider making a donation this holiday season?*

*Happy Holidays!*

*The Officers and Board of Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.*

..... Print/cut out the box below and send to TRG. We thank you for your generosity! .....

Enclosed is my donation to GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc., PO Box 111202, Pittsburgh PA 15238

*Inside this issue ~~*

<i>Nat'l Greyhound Conference</i>	<i>p.2</i>
<i>Winterizing Your Hound</i>	<i>p.2</i>
<i>Greyhound Honeymoon</i>	<i>p.3,4</i>
<i>Helping Hounds Buffet</i>	<i>p.5</i>
<i>Rainbow Bridge</i>	<i>p.5</i>
<i>Greyt Wisdom</i>	<i>p.5</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Online Auction</i>	<i>p.6</i>
<i>From the Kitchen</i>	<i>p.6</i>
<i>Sophie Sez</i>	<i>p.7</i>
<i>Greyhounds &amp; Facebook</i>	<i>p.7</i>
<i>Greyhound Dental Care</i>	<i>p.8</i>

***Exciting News!! TRG Will Host  
2014 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference***

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds has been chosen to host the 2014 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference (NAGAC) in Pittsburgh on June 20-22, 2014!

This conference will bring together greyhound lovers from all over the country for 3 days of seminars, fun, and sharing of ideas!

We will have vendors with spectacular greyhound merchandise that you won't want to miss!

The Sheraton Inn Station Square is already booked for this event. You won't want to miss this!

There will be more information coming in spring 2013, so be sure to check our website regularly.

***“Winterizing” Your Greyhound***

The first snowflakes of winter have dusted our lawns, and as we prepare for the winter season, it's time to give some thought to making your greyhound's transition to the cold and blustery temperatures a safe and healthy one.

Consider the following issues when acclimating your hound to the weather.

- ✓ Greyhounds have 1) a lower percentage of body fat than most dogs and 2) have a short coat. They are more susceptible to the cold temperatures and potential hypothermia. A good rule of thumb is if you would put on a coat to go outside, then your greyhound probably needs a coat also. There are many coats made to fit the greyhound's shape. A quick internet search will produce many choices. Several vendors are also listed on our website.

And don't forget those greyhound ears! Coats with turtleneck type neck or an item called a 'snood' will cover the neck area and can be pulled up over your hound's ears to keep them warm.

- ✓ Whether to continue giving your hound flea and tick preventative and heartworm preventative is an issue that you should discuss with your veterinarian. Even with the coldest weather and freezes, fleas and ticks have been found on pets that are outside.
- ✓ Exercise is just as important in the winter months as during the other three seasons. Your hound may love playing in the snow or taking a quick walk. Monitor the time your hound spends outside and the amount of exertion. Frequent short periods of outdoor exercise are better than one long period.



Indoor play can be a healthy substitute when temperatures are too low. This might be the time to teach your greyhound a few commands or tricks. Mental stimulation can be just as tiring as physical.

- ✓ Just like humans, winter weight gain should be avoided. Extra treats are generally not necessary. Monitor your hound's eating habits to determine if a change is needed, and consult with your veterinarian.
- ✓ When your greyhound comes in from outside with snow on the ground, wipe their feet and check the feet for snow packing, which can split webs, or ice cuts. Also, take care if they walk on sidewalks or other areas that have been salted. A greyhound's paws should be cleaned and dried to get off any salt residue so that your hound won't lick it off. There are several commercial ice-melt products (ex: Safe Paw or Morton's Safe T Pet) that are safe for pets.

A product that helps protect dogs' feet might be applied before they venture outside. (These usually contain an emollient that acts as a barrier on their pads- Musher's Wax is one such product.) Another option would be the use of doggie boots if you can get your greyhound to tolerate wearing them.

By taking some precautionary steps, you can make sure that your greyhounds enjoy the winter weather in a safe manner.



# MY HOUND'S HONEYMOON IS HISTORY! – HOW TO HANDLE THOSE HEADACHES!

by *Kyle Catanzarite*



Despite my humorous description of what happens when the hound of your dreams suddenly morphs into the hound from hell, tackling behavioral issues with your newly adopted greyhound can be a very frustrating, and sometimes costly, challenge.

Before reviewing the kinds of behaviors that may occur after the honeymoon with your newly adopted greyhound is over, it is important to understand that **there is no such thing as a perfect dog...greyhounds included!**

Unfortunately, misconceptions about greyhounds often lead to adoption failures, which are more often than not the result of misinformation and unrealistic expectations.

To set the record straight for anyone considering adoption, and for those of you who are still on a honeymoon with your hound, these are some facts to ponder before the honeymoon is history:

*Greyhounds bark.....Greyhounds jump on people (little people too).....Greyhounds pull on leashes.....  
Greyhounds jump on furniture (including beds).....Greyhounds are space intolerant.....Greyhounds chew  
toys, pillows, shoes, furniture, and more.....Greyhounds are crated during their racing careers.....  
Greyhounds are unhappy when left alone all day, most evenings and weekends.*



Don't panic after reading the list. But let's assume that when you adopted your greyhound you actually believed that a greyhound is a perfect dog. If this sounds like you, then it is time to take off the rose-colored glasses and get to know your greyhound for the angel and devil he/she can be!

Let's begin by stating the obvious. You have to be smarter than your greyhound! Sounds easy, right? Not surprisingly, far too many greyhounds find themselves banished for life from their forever homes because their humans just didn't get it!

The sights and sounds of a completely new environment in a home may be overwhelming. The world of the racing greyhound does not include slippery floors, stairs, TV, music, microwaves, kids, cats, dishwashers and those very tempting novelties like, shoes, pillows, furniture (leather and otherwise), plants, sliding glass doors, birds, etc.

In some cases, overwhelmed is an understatement of how your greyhound feels. It may take days, weeks or even months for the true personality of your greyhound to finally appear.

Once your greyhound learns the ropes, including your routines, how to run up the steps, walk on slippery floors, take things off the countertops, and climb on the furniture, a comfort level has been reached that will give him/her the confidence to expand horizons! This newfound confidence may result in almost unlimited behaviors that you have never seen or expected. Suddenly, you realize that the honeymoon is over and the greyhound you thought you adopted is not the hound that has taken up residence in your home and your heart!

What to do? Take a deep breath, be patient and be determined to remain consistent and resolute in your efforts to establish boundaries and realistic expectations for your greyhound's behaviors. In extreme and rare cases, where your greyhound becomes very destructive or exhibits aggressive behaviors towards humans or other hounds, it may be necessary to enlist the help of a behavioral consultant. **BUT**, 9 times out of 10, you only need to use common sense to modify or eliminate the undesirable behaviors.

While there are many books available that deal with behaviors (specific to greyhounds and canines in general) here are some common sense practices that I, and many greyhound lovers, have used and found to be successful over the years.

\***Barking** - Inside the house, barking is almost always an attention-seeking behavior. Try to determine why your hound wants your attention. He/she may be hungry, thirsty or need a potty break. If none of those reasons seems to be the cause, ignore the barking until it stops and then reward the hound. Rewards (food or praise) must be given when the barking stops and not to stop the barking.

\***Jumping** – A sign of excitement, jumping is never acceptable because it can cause injuries to people of all sizes and ages. If your hound is allowed to jump on one person, it is carte blanche to jump on everyone! Jumping can be controlled by pulling the collar firmly downward, accompanied by a stern verbal command each and every time it occurs.

\***Pulling** – Since greyhounds have very little, if any, experience walking on a leash, teaching him/her to walk calmly can take time. Begin by walking your hound on a short leash and keeping the pressure firm. The minute the pulling starts, stop walking, issue a stern verbal command and resume only when the pulling stops and the leash is relaxed in your hand. Then repeat, repeat, repeat!

\***Space Intolerance** - Greyhounds spend their lives in crates in the racing kennels. As a result, many establish an imaginary boundary outside of the crate that they guard against intruders. Be respectful of the boundary initially until your hound develops a comfort level with

your encroachment. Hugging your hound, lying on the hound, sharing a bed (yours or the greyhound's), bending over your hound on the floor, or touching before he/she is completely awake are all potential formulas for reactive behaviors, including growling and biting. Touchy-feely interactions need to wait until you are absolutely sure that your greyhound is comfortable and relaxed in your home and with you.

**\*Chewing** – Chewing, while not normally dangerous unless it involves wires and sharp objects, is extremely frustrating. This is especially true when your hound destroys something that can't be replaced or will be costly to replace. Chewing is easily controlled by not giving your hound unsupervised access to furniture, pillows, shoes, books, eyeglasses, etc. If given an opportunity, it is almost a certainty that he/she will take full advantage of it. Muzzling your greyhound while it is left to its own devices for short periods of time in your home is very effective and a practical way to deal with destructive behaviors. Remember, your hound does not know the difference between a Kong toy and the pillow that your great-grandmother embroidered a century ago!

**\*Crating** -- Since this is a way of life for racing greyhounds, most are able to transition quite easily to being crated in your home. It is important that you get off on the right paw by crating your greyhound from the time he/she comes into your home! Problems with chewing the crate can be controlled by muzzling your hound in the crate. It is a perfectly acceptable practice since **all** greyhounds wear muzzles in racing kennels. It is also important to crate your hound periodically when you are home and not just when you leave home. Otherwise, the crate will be associated with your absence and possibly increase the likelihood of developing separation anxiety.



**\*Separation Anxiety** – It is unclear as to why some hounds are more prone to developing separation anxiety than others. But because ancient dogs lived and hunted in packs, greyhounds instinctively have a comfort level living with other dogs. The anxiety may be mild and only require that you give your hound a tasty treat before leaving him/her alone. Also, sometimes leaving the TV on or music playing will help. But for extreme cases where your hound destroys the crate or worse, if you have made the mistake of not using a crate, it will require that you go back to basics and crate the muzzled hound for short periods while you are gone. Medication should be used only as a last resort and with recommendation from a vet. Often, having two or more hounds will decrease the anxiety an only greyhound will feel when left alone. But the bottom line is that if you are not home for long periods of the day and evening and have plans to be gone most of the weekend, then a greyhound, or any dog for that matter, will not be happy in your home!

Remember that one of the most important benefits of adopting a greyhound from GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds is that you immediately have access to the knowledge and experience of many people who have lived with and loved greyhounds for years and years and years! These people are always ready and available to provide counsel and advice once you and your greyhound leave the honeymoon behind and begin the day-to-day business of sharing your lives together.

Good Luck!

## *Helping Hounds Buffet A Greyt Success!!*

On Sunday, November 11, TRG held its first Helping Hounds Buffet at Ferrante's Lakeview in Greensburg. Forty-nine animal lovers of all kinds came together for an afternoon of fun, food and friendship!

A wonderful pasta buffet enticed everyone to go for seconds....just ask Wolfy! ☺ We had door prizes, Chinese auctions, a silent auction, and special basket raffles throughout the afternoon. Each pet owner went home with a goodie bag and doggie bandana.

Wolf and Beastly made a grand entrance, but an even more spectacular departure! Both found their forever homes while at the buffet. Beastly, now known as Flash, joins 'sister' Honey with the Griffith's, enjoying the retired life! Wolf, now known as Wolfy, put a huge smile on Michelle Pscolyar's face - one that had been missing after the loss of two greys to the Rainbow Bridge earlier this year.

With the help of a Petco Foundation grant and the generosity of all who attended, TRG raised over \$2000 at the buffet! Monies will be used to help offset the costs of veterinary care for the greyhounds that enter our adoption program.



"Wolfy"

The buffet was such a HUGE success in every aspect that TRG has decided this will be an annual event. If you missed it this year....don't miss it in 2013!

Many thanks to Dan and Susy Durso, Sandy Strychors and Dave Kost, and Lisa Paulson for all their hard work with this event!



"Flash"



*Thank You to the Following Businesses & Individuals  
for Their Donations  
To the Helping Hounds Buffet!*

Balance Photography  
Cheesecake Factory, Ross Park Mall  
Designing Health/Missing Link  
Georgian Inn  
Lucky Dog Threads  
Overby Farms  
P.L.A.Y. Pet Lifestyle and You  
Saratoga Horseworks, LTD  
Sogeval Laboratories  
Umbr Corp.  
Woodrow Wear, LLC

Big Dog Boutique  
Jan Ciolli  
Popware for Pets  
Hotdog Collars  
Neater Feeder  
Paw Flex  
PPC Designs  
Shoredog/Grey Collars  
Strychor/Kost Family  
Up Country, Inc.

BioBags  
Country Brook Design  
Fun Slides Carpet Skatepark  
Lazy Dog Designs  
Nylabone Products  
PetCo  
Quaker Pet Group  
Sleepypod  
Trendy Hounds  
Nancy Weiss

*Remembering those greyhounds who have recently crossed  
the Bridge...*

Jada, loved by Sue Ballard and family  
Vaila, loved by the Durso Family  
Marci, loved by Donna Musher and family  
Shea, loved by Sue Ballard and family  
Kali, loved by Sue Ballard and family  
P.D, loved by Debi Page and family



*Greyt Wisdom*

*Greyt  
Wisdom*



We all experience "one of those days". You know the day, when everything seems to go wrong, and everyone around you planted their boots on your backside.

Remember this, your greys are unaware of the day you had. Even if they knew, it would not change their excitement upon seeing you come home!

While you may not be in the mood to be jumped on or play ball with them, it is important to realize their excitement is a display of love. You are their world, and they have been missing you.

Their excitement heightens their energy. By giving them special time, you are showing them the love is mutual and you appreciate it.

*~Dan Durso*

## *It's Auction Time! Be Ready to Bid!*

TRG will be holding our second ONLINE auction! Last year's auction was very successful. This year we will have more and varied greyt items to bid on.

Mark those calendars for **February 17-24, 2013**. Get your computers ready....get your fingers in shape....get your bidding power charged!



- ✓ If you are a collector of greyhound items, we have them!
- ✓ If you are a greyhound lover and just want greyhound stuff, we have it!
- ✓ If you've thought of starting a greyhound memorabilia collection, now is the time, because we have the items you will want!
- ✓ There will be items for the non-greyhound owners who support our mission!

All funds raised will be used to help TRG rescue and place retired racing greyhounds into their forever homes! This is your chance to help a greyhound, while getting cool stuff for you **and** your hound!

*From the Kitchen* ~~ with so many commercial dog treats being recalled, why not try your hand at some homemade treats?

### Parmesan Biscuits for Dogs

4 cups self-rising flour  
1/3 cup parmesan cheese  
1/3 cup powdered skim milk  
2 eggs  
1/3 cup canola oil  
1/3 cup very hot water

Mix all dry ingredients together. In small bowl beat 2 eggs. Add 1/3 cup canola oil. Add 1/3 cup hot water. Add well-beaten wet ingredients to the center of mixed dry ingredients and mix by hand then knead into a ball.

Roll out to the thickness you desire and use a cookie cutter to cut out shapes. Place on parchment lined baking sheet, and bake at 300 degrees for about 30 minutes until they are lightly browned.

Turn off oven and leave cookies in the oven overnight to cool.

~~ Special thanks to Lisa Paulson for providing this recipe and to Indi and Tucker for their taste-testing hound approval! (Lisa says these are even greyt tasting for humans!)



---

**Looking for some greyt Christmas gifts?** Check out the TRG online store.

Our cookbook contains recipes for dog and human treats! Need to feel warm and cozy this winter? Order a long sleeve tee or sweatshirt!

By doing so, you'll check some boxes off your holiday list, and help TRG with our mission of greyhound adoption!

---



## Sophie Sez: A Greyhound's Wish For Christmas



Sophie is taking a break from her normal advice column in this issue. She asked the TRG Board if we could please print her letter to Santa instead. She will once again offer her unique perspective on a greyhound's life in the next newsletter, so if your hound needs any advice, please write to Sophie at: [twogreytups@gmail.com](mailto:twogreytups@gmail.com)

*Dear Santa,*

I have been a very good greyhound this year (don't listen to what my mom says) so I would really like it if you and Rudolph could bring me these goodies.

- 1) A really really big bag of Greenies. I promise to share with my brothers.
- 2) I would be so happy if I could have a queen size bed of my own. I don't think I should have to share that with my mom or my brothers, I need my rest more than they do. I'm the only published author in the family after all.
- 3) A big bag of squeaky toys would be super. I can be gentle with them but my brothers chew them to bits so I don't get to play with them for very long.
- 4) More rides in the car. Just me and my mom, the boys crowd me. Or maybe my own car?
- 5) A play date with some of my greyhound friends. Maybe two play dates.
- 6) A free pass from the vet, I don't like to get shots.
- 7) My very own jar of peanut butter.
- 8) A muzzle for my little brother, he makes too much noise.
- 9) A new raincoat and matching booties. I really don't like to get my feet wet.
- 10) And the most important wish of all – a family for all of my greyhound friends waiting for their forever home. If you can make this one come true, I can forget about all the rest of my wishes.

Thank you Santa, I promise to leave some milk and cookies out for you. But you better hurry before my brothers get them.

Love, *Sophie* 



### *Facebook Do's and Don'ts*

Social Media can be a wonderful way to stay in touch with friends, and stay up to date on the latest happenings of your favorite groups.



But we also have a responsibility to conduct ourselves properly when posting to the TRG Facebook page. With that in mind, here are a few guidelines with regard to TRG's page.

We all love to share stories and pictures about our greyhounds. And we all love to hear about our friend's hounds and their antics. Facebook is the perfect venue for this type of fun communication. It's also a great way to stay informed about the latest events, and can be an endless source of educational information.

However, there are cases when Facebook is not the appropriate place for discussion. General health or behavior questions are fine (i.e. my greyhound has gas, what should I do?), but any serious concerns should be addressed to the TRG Board (i.e. my greyhound growled at my grandson, what should I do?)

Any serious health concerns should be discussed with your veterinarian. Average health concerns and most all behavioral questions should be directed to the TRG Board – we are committed to supporting our adopters for life and we are happy to offer the benefit of our years of experience. If we don't know the answer, we'll find it.

Most importantly, as representatives of Greyhound Pets Of America, we must NEVER post anything negative or derogatory about the racing industry on the TRG page. We all have, and are entitled to our own opinions, but GPA maintains a very stern position of neutrality. If we offend the racing industry, they can quite simply refuse to give us dogs. And then it's the dogs who suffer and we've defeated our own purpose.

Simply put, if we all use common sense about what we post to the TRG page, we'll continue to enjoy stories about the greytest dogs on the planet for years to come!

~ *Ruth Scheller*

## *Keeping Those Pearly Whites Intact!*

When Promise, a blue brindle brood mama hound, came into the TRG program, Sue Yanakos took this wonderful hound into her home. Sue recounts the importance of keeping a greyhound's teeth in clean shape.



When we picked Promise up from a Wheeling farm, I was concerned about her bad breath. One look in her mouth confirmed my suspicions. Red swollen gums with excessive tartar and plaque build-up were evident to even my unprofessional eyes.

A trip was made to our veterinarian that day (thank heavens for a cancellation in his schedule). Promise was placed on an antibiotic and then scheduled for a teeth cleaning. When she had the procedure done, 14 teeth were extracted!!!

Promise has done well since the cleaning, she has put on weight and her general appearance has improved including a shiny, soft coat.

Most likely your Greyhound had no formal dental care before retirement from racing. But the good news is with a proper diet unlike their racing diet of high bacteria food (raw 4D meat) and daily teeth care your dog can have a "pearly white smile".

**Brushing is the most important aspect of home dental care.** Brushing is the cornerstone for your dog's home dental care. If your dog's teeth have heavy tartar build-up, you can't brush it off and so a professional cleaning at your vets is needed to give you a clean slate to work with.

Ideally, your Greyhound should have its teeth brushed daily or at least every other day with toothpaste formulated for dogs. Toothpaste for dogs that has poultry and beef flavor is available at pet supply stores as are rubber brushes and pet toothbrushes. A slower introduction to brushing as a new experience may be prudent. Letting the dog lick toothpaste off your finger and rubbing his teeth and gums at the same time would be a gentle introduction to the process.

**Work with your veterinarian.** There are products on the market today that takes plaque off teeth and helps keep it off. In addition a diet of dry kibbled food is recommended. Soft food tends to stick on teeth promoting dental problems. Crunchy treats also help keep teeth clean. There are many treats available that are marketed as helping to keep teeth clean. When in doubt ask your vet.

With proper dental care your dog will have an extra advantage to a happy, healthy life....

~ Sue Yanakos

Remember your  
toothbrush is green,  
mine is blue.



Bob would learn the hard way that  
dogs are color-blind.

***GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.*** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and the exclusive Western Pennsylvania chapter of the national organization Greyhound Pets of America (GPA), "The Greyhound Retirement Specialists." Operating according to GPA guidelines and ethical standards, the mission of our all-volunteer organization is to educate the public about the suitability of Greyhounds as house pets and to find loving forever homes for Greyhounds and only Greyhounds.

President - Ruth Scheller  
Vice President - Louise Evans  
Director - Kyle Catanzarite

Secretary/Treasurer - Susy Durso  
Director - Sue Yanakos  
Compliance - Lisa Paulson