

News and Roos

From

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

DECEMBER 2011 Issue #6



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays upon us, I thought this might be a good time to remind everyone that our 4-legged companions might feel a bit of stress during these busy times, particularly if your greyhound is new to your home, but even our old friends can be overwhelmed with all the comings and goings of the holiday season.

If you entertain during this time of year, remember to educate your guests about the importance of guarding the door. An open door is an invitation to run! Better yet, if you have a house full of guests, it may be best to sequester your greyhound in a quiet part of the house. Or you can use strategically placed baby gates so he/she can safely be part of the action.

Remember too that many plants and foods are toxic to your greyhound. That beautiful Poinsettia from Aunt Annie might make a nice centerpiece, but it's not meant for grazing! Wrapping paper, tinsel, ornaments, chocolate, turkey bones; the list of potentially harmful things is endless.

But with a little common sense and due diligence, the holidays can be a wonderful time of year for all. A good rule of thumb: if it isn't safe for your toddler, it's probably not safe for your greyhound.

From all of us at Three Rivers Greyhounds – have a safe and happy holiday season!

Ruth Scheller

The Officers and Board of Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.



Back for the Second Year - Our Gift to You!

Because so many greyhounds are still waiting for their forever home, we would like to extend this special invitation to you.

From now **until January 8, 2012**, individuals who have adopted a greyhound either from Three Rivers Greyhounds or another adoption group have the opportunity to adopt another greyhound from TRG for a reduced adoption fee of \$125.

An adoption application is still necessary, and for those other than previous TRG adopters, a home visit will still be required.

Is now the right time to add another hound to your family? We're sure our adoptables will say yes! They are ready for you to open your home and heart to them in return for a lifetime of unconditional love! Check them out on Page 4 of this newsletter!

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Safeguarding against Holiday Hazards



With Christmas upon us, some thought should be put into decorations. A child's curiosity can be rivaled by that of your greyhound.

The following tips should be considered to safeguard your hound during the festive season.

- Tinsel, wrapping paper and ribbons, if ingested, can get caught up in the intestines, causing a multitude of problems along with a visit to the vet.
- Holiday lights and extension cords can be hazardous. If possible, keep them out of reach of your hound. If they are exposed, be sure to check them regularly for signs of chewing.
- Ornaments on the tree should be placed out of reach. If ornaments are reachable and loosely attached, they can quickly become chew toys. If reachable and firmly attached, the entire tree can come tumbling down if pulled on.
- Christmas plants, such as poinsettias, amaryllis, lilies, red azaleas and paper whites can be toxic to your pet.
- If you wrap treats for your hound, remember, its sense of smell is much better than ours. If the hound can sniff it, he/she will ignore the "Do not open till Christmas" tag on it!
- If you have a live tree, keep the fallen pine needles cleaned up. The sharp tips can penetrate the paw pads and get stuck in their mouth. Cover the tree stand, especially if you use chemicals in the water to preserve the tree. This can be unsafe for them to drink.
- Be aware that some snow globes contain anti-freeze, which is very toxic to animals!

During this holiday season, your greyhound will see things it does not normally see. Natural curiosity can and will get the best of him/her. Please safeguard your hound this holiday season.

~Dan Durso

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### *Greyt Wisdom*

*Greyt  
Wisdom*



*by Dan Durso*

From time to time, we encounter a socially challenged greyhound. This does not make it a misfit that should not be considered for adoption. However, it will require understanding and patience. We may not know what, if anything, caused the grey to become this way. By assuming it is afraid of being harmed, you can begin to understand how to help it overcome its fears.

Establishing a comfort zone is very important. A crate works well, if placed in an area that is easily accessible, yet secure. This area should be somewhere that you can be seen often. This will allow it to get used to you, and in time, you will become its security. If possible, keep the crate door open when you are present. By doing so, the grey will venture out as it becomes less wary of its surroundings.

Talk often to your hound, using a soft, non-threatening voice. Praise it when you notice any gains (treats work well), until this grey is used to you and appears comfortable around you. Be cautious when approaching the hound as this could cause stress.

If you have other greys, be sure to give them attention in the presence of the socially challenged hound. This will assure them that they are still loved while showing the timid hound that you are safe and affectionate. It is also a good idea to keep its' food and water near or in the comfort zone.

Most importantly, take it slow. Do not force the issue. In time, you will form a gratifying bond.

## *Greyhounds Shine Despite Showers*



Not even a rainy day and cool temperatures were enough to dampen the spirits of the hounds and their humans who turned out for the October 2<sup>nd</sup> bath-a-thon at Tan-Zar Kennels.

Each greyhound was treated to a professional grooming that included a bath, brushing and pedicure. Twenty hounds took the plunge and with the addition of merchandise sales, a total of \$676 was raised for hounds still searching to find forever homes!

There were lots of treats for the humans too, who busied themselves sharing their favorite greyhound tales. And if that isn't enough good news, there were 3 hounds that upgraded their status from "adoptable" to "adopted"!

It was a "greyt" day for greyhounds!

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A very special thank you to the following for donations received recently ~~

Strychor/Roth Family  
Verizon  
Federated Investors



### *Pepsi Refresh Project*

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc was notified that our submission for a refresh project grant was up and ready for voting!

And vote we did!

Yellow Pepsi caps were at a premium for all volunteers and their friends, families and coworkers!

The Pepsi caps were worth 'power votes' that boosted us up into the top rankings. The top 20 vote getters in our category – a Pepsi \$5000 refresh grant – would be eligible for a grant. A lot of nail biting, texting and tapping of keys on the computer happened, especially at the end.

The result? TRG has received a \$5000 Pepsi Refresh Project grant for our 14<sup>th</sup> place finish. This grant will be used to help rescue, feed and board greyhounds until they find their forever homes!  
Thanks to everyone who voted regularly!



*Thank you Pepsi!*



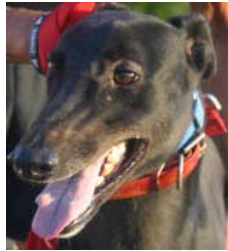
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GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc. was also awarded a \$2000 grant from the ASPCA in October! This grant money will be used specifically for spaying and neutering the greyhounds that are brought into our adoption system.

*THANKS TO THE  
ASPCA!!!*

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Check out these wonderful hounds that are available for adoption. Do you have room for an extra stocking on your mantle? Click [HERE](#) to learn more about these greyhounds looking for their forever home.



 *Sponsor an Adoptable TRG Greyhound* 

TRG is offering an opportunity to individuals or businesses to 'sponsor a greyhound'. For a \$25 donation to TRG, your name will be listed on the hound's profile as his/her sponsor. There can be more than 1 sponsor per hound. Sponsor donations will be used for the care of the hound while it is being fostered in a home or in the kennel.

If you would like to sponsor a TRG greyhound,  
please contact us at [info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org](mailto:info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org).



*New Volunteers Always Needed and Greytly Appreciated!!*

One of the best ways to introduce the general public to a life with greyhounds is to volunteer at one of TRG's monthly Meet n' Greets. We currently take our adopted greyhounds and those awaiting forever homes to area Petco stores.

If you would be able to help by bringing your greyhound and talking to people about what wonderful family pets greyhounds make, consider helping at one of the monthly meet and greets.

We are at the following locations: Butler Petco, Cranberry Twp. Petco, McKnight Road Petco, Greensburg Petco, and Monroeville Petco. Click [HERE](#) for dates, time and locations where our greyhounds will be out and about at area Petco Stores! You can contact the TRG coordinator for the specific store where you would like to volunteer.

*The more hounds the merrier!!*

## *"Just A Dog"*

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or "that's a lot of money for just a dog."

They don't understand the distance travelled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog."

Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man" or "just a woman."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog," just smile,  
because they "just don't understand."

~Unknown Author~

## *Is Your Greyhound a Steeler Fan?*

If you 'bleed' black and gold when the Steelers play, then perhaps you want your greyhound to reflect your passion for the team.



Now you can do that and make a contribution to Three Rivers Greyhounds. These adorable coats made from Steeler fleece are crafted by Carole Hillwig of Greensburg and are reasonably priced at \$30. For each coat that she sells based on an order from our group & supporters, she will donate \$5 to Three Rivers Greyhounds.

For more information and to order, please contact Carole directly by phone @ 724.834.3681

(Please note: shipping not included. Be sure to mention that you are ordering through Three Rivers Greyhounds. Carole also makes coats from holiday fleeces.)

It would be greyt to have all our hounds in black and gold as they get ready for the "playoffs".

## Senior Project Benefits Greyhound Rescue & Adoption



My name is Jim Madden and I am a senior at Shaler Area High School. I have been working with Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc. (TRG) for two months now, on my senior project "Greyhounds Tugging at Your Heart".

From the beginning of this project, I knew I wanted to become an advocate for animals, since I'm an animal lover. The idea was pitched to me to work with greyhounds by my mom. I knew a few things that are done to greyhounds during their racing careers, and thought that it would be a perfect fit for the work I wanted to achieve. I agreed, and from there, we set up a meeting with the president of Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

That's where I met Ms. Scheller. At this meeting, she was very open, informative, answered all my questions, and gave me all the initial information I needed to get my feet wet. At this time I asked Ms. Scheller what was the most money that TRG ever raised at a fundraiser. She informed me that between \$700.00 and \$800.00 dollars. So I decided right there that I was going to set a goal for myself to be their Number One fundraiser and raise \$1000.00.

A few weeks later, my mother and I went to a Bath-A-Thon, held by the chapter at Tan-Zar Kennels, where I was given the opportunity to meet several more members of the TRG Family including Treasurer Susy, and Fund Raiser Coordinator Lisa, and made two (four legged) friends for life, Tucker and Indy. I put together a letter about my senior project and sent it to all my family and friends. I also personally went to several local businesses to collect donations, as well as major corporations and politicians.

The next four events we hosted meet n 'greet, which are events where people meet and interact directly with the hounds. One of these was at the Shaler Library, which is the one we planned for my project. Another was at the Petco in Cranberry, and then, on the very next day, at the Petco on

McKnight Road. At these events, not only did we raise much awareness, but I also got a chance to get to know some of the members, such as Pam and her daughter Melissa, Kyle, Louise, Lisa and her husband Mark, and Ruth too.



I also planned a Wendy's Community Night Event at the store in Allison Park, where 15% of all sales from the hours of 5:00 - 8:00 pm., were donated to the organization. This went real well, and it looks like TRG might schedule a monthly meet 'n greet there.

I also have been selling Sarris Candy. The final thing so far that I've done with the chapter was marched in the Butler Spirit of Christmas Parade with the group. This was a lot of fun and the people loved the hounds in the parade. All the members I'd ever met were there with their hounds, and best of all, and we raised a ton of awareness for these docile lovable creatures.

Although I've only been with the chapter a short time, I can honestly say that I've never felt a more rewarding feeling than being with the members and hounds raising awareness and donations. I've made some awesome friends (two and four legged).

I plan to stick with TRG Family and volunteer and do more events with them for years to come, because at the end of the day, even if one more person knows about these magnificent hounds, then it's a rewarding feeling. I take pride in knowing that I am doing something that MATTERS for these animals. I love the organization, and all of its members, and I especially love the hounds. I couldn't have asked for a better group to do this with.

Thank you so much everyone!

~~ Jim Madden  
Shaler Class of 2012



*Two Years and Counting*  
*By Kyle Catanzarite*

The saying "time passes quickly when you're having fun" could not be more appropriate for describing how the officers, directors and volunteers of GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds have enjoyed participating in its formation and nurturing its growth.

What started as a desire, on the part of a few dedicated volunteers, to pursue their commitment to finding forever homes for greyhounds, quickly took shape as a GPA subchapter and then a chapter in just 6 months!

Since attaining chapter status in 2009 to represent the largest national network of greyhound adoption organizations, GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds' officers, directors and volunteers have worked tirelessly to find forever homes for 80 greyhounds in Western Pennsylvania. With the cooperation of racing industry breeders and GPA chapter affiliates, it has been possible to make adoption an option for increasing numbers of retired racers and those greyhounds that do not qualify for racing.

These adoption numbers are the direct result of a tremendous amount of time and energy that has been devoted to promoting greyhound adoption in a variety of ways. From meet 'n greets at pet stores to holiday parades and appearances at libraries and other community venues, the GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds are busy ambassadors for their breed!

Every successful greyhound adoption program depends heavily on effective fundraising activities to meet numerous and varied expenses. In the past two years, GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds' officers, directors and volunteers have excelled at finding innovative and creative ways to ensure that adequate funds are available to meet the financial responsibilities of placing hounds in homes.

Among the favorites are the golf and bowling events, bath-a-thons, car cruises and bike nights! New for 2012 will be an online auction that is already generating a lot of excitement. To complement the fundraising activities, the campaign to win the Pepsi Challenge resulted in a \$5,000 award and grant writing, which has become an important part of the fundraising activities, has been a well-rewarded undertaking as well.

The viability and success of GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds would not have been possible were it not for the community of officers, directors and volunteers who have created an organization that changes the lives of greyhounds, one "greyt" hound at a time!

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*Remembering Those Greyhounds that have recently  
crossed the Bridge.....*

*Pal Evans*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Mark those calendars for February 19 - 25, 2012. Get your computers ready....get your fingers in shape....get your bidding power charged!

TRG will be holding our very first ever ONLINE auction! It's true! We have spectacular items that will be available for you to bid on!



- ✓ 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!!!

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

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*By the numbers, greyhound style, a favorite holiday carol .....*

On the 1st day of Christmas my Greyhound gave to me ~

- 1 Greyhound roo
- 2 muddy paws prints
- 3 chewed up stuffies
- 4 long legs
- 5 cups of kibble
- 6 butt sniffs
- 7 laps in the yard
- 8 possums chased
- 9 nuggets (chicken) stolen
- 10 gas attacks
- 11 Greyhound hairs in my coffee
- 12 naps a day



***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/Compliance Officer –  
Kyle Catanzarite

Secretary/Treasurer - Susy Durso  
Director - Sue Yanakos

If you are planning end-of-year or holiday donation gifts, please consider a donation to Three Rivers Greyhounds. Your contribution made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2011 will be fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds!



*Thank you!*