

News and Roos

From

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.



June 2012

Issue #8



SUMMER FUN WITH GREYHOUNDS

Looking for a fun activity this summer? Three Rivers Greyhounds has three greyt activities that are fun and also help with our mission of greyhound adoption. Check out the activities below. Volunteer or register for at least one of them! You'll be glad that you did!



Saturday, June 30th Come and volunteer at our booth at the **Steel City Pet Expo** at Monroeville Expo Mart! There is free admission and parking. Bring your hound! In addition to promoting greyhound adoption, you'll be able to visit a variety of vendors at the Expo. There is a waiver form and your pet must have proof of current rabies vaccine. Costumed Pet Parade at 4:45 p.m. Meet "Shorty" from Animal Planet!



Sunday, July 29th **Sixth Annual Fore! The Hounds Benefit Golf Outing** at Lakevue North Golf Course, Rt. 8 North, Butler PA. Whether you're a 10-handicap or just a casual golfer, come out and support greyhound adoption, enjoy a round of golf + buffet style dinner + prizes. Greyhounds will be there to greet you at the 19th hole! \$75 per golfer. Download the registration form [here](#) and RSVP by June 30th!



Sunday, August 5th **Seventh Annual Bowling for Greyhounds**, Main Street Bowling Center, Greensburg PA. Bowling starts at 2 pm. Fee - \$20 per person, includes 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, t-shirt. Entry deadline is July 13th. Download registration form [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars for These Greyt TRG Volunteer Opportunities!



Wendy's Restaurant Meet & Greets, 4679 William Flynn Hwy.(Rt. 8), Allison Park, PA ~ come meet TRG greyhounds from 5-8 pm. Wendy's will donate 15% of sales to TRG on the following dates – June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19 & October 17.

Quaker Steak & Lube Bike Nights, 1298 Freedom Road, Cranberry Twp., PA ~ bring your greyhound from 6 pm. until ? on the following Thursdays to let everyone know about these greyt dogs! June 28, July 26, August 30 ~ Fast dogs & fast bikes – a greyt combination!

Starlite Car Cruise, 12121 Perry Hwy, Wexford PA Friday nights beginning May 25 from 6 -7:30 pm. Contact Sue Yanakos for information and to volunteer at SKYanakos@yahoo.com

Inside this issue ~~

<i>The Greyt Escape</i>	<i>p.2</i>
<i>Sponsors</i>	<i>p.2</i>
<i>What is GPA?</i>	<i>P.3</i>
<i>Greyt wisdom</i>	<i>p.4</i>
<i>Rainbow Bridge</i>	<i>p.4</i>
<i>Sophie Sez....</i>	<i>p.5</i>
<i>TRG Reunion Held</i>	<i>p.5</i>
<i>Donation Thank You</i>	<i>p.6</i>
<i>Greyhounds in Gettysburg</i>	<i>p.6</i>
<i>Shyla's Journey</i>	<i>p.7, 8</i>
<i>Time is Ticking.....</i>	<i>p.8</i>

The Greyt Escape

*By
Susy Durso*

Let's face it - greyhounds are fast. Humans are not. And if you ask just about any greyhound owner, the biggest fear they face is their greyhound escaping.

It happens. It happens to the best of us. It happens quickly. And it has happened to me.

Lina is my escape artist. Yes, I said escape artist. She has managed to escape 4 times in the 6 ½ years she's been with us. Thank goodness my neighbors know we are the 'greyhound people' and call to her when they see her, then call us.



The first escape happened to me. My backyard is fenced in. My kids know to never leave the gate open. Unfortunately, their friends forgot that rule. One of them left the gate open and we did not realize it until it was too late. I opened the door to let the dogs out.

As they went out, I realized the gate was open. I quickly ran out to shut the gate, but Lina was quicker. As she took off down the street, so did I. She's retired, but fast. I'm not. I did catch her....3 blocks away....as she was relieving herself. I forgot to grab a leash, so I walked her back holding onto her collar, swearing she would never get away again.

She did manage to get out 3 more times...on the kids, who ran all over the neighborhood to get her back. Since then, we have fortified our fence and gate, and are ever more diligent when letting our greys outside now.

What was Lina's saving grace? Her ID tags. She had her nametag on it, along with my cell phone number on it. Does your hound have ID tags on?? If it doesn't, please go get one now!

An important thing to think about when getting a nametag is the number you put on it. It seems reasonable to put your home phone number on it, but if you have a cell phone, that number is better. If your hound gets out, and you are out searching for it, you will not be home to answer your phone. Most people carry their cell phones with them all the time.

Whenever TRG places a hound in a forever home, we give you an ID/dog tag with our group information/phone number. Please leave this ID tag on your hound! We have received calls in the past from folks that found a greyhound with this tag on it, but no other ID. Fortunately, we were able to find the owners of the hounds found via their TRG ID tags.

TRG is always more than willing to help reunite a hound with its human, but it would be so much easier to identify the hound with a personalized ID tag!

Protect your hound from your greytest fear! Wear ID tags on your hound at all times!

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.

Your contribution made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2012 will be fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds!

Thank you!

Thank you to our Greyt sponsors!

The following people sponsored adoptable hounds by making \$25 donations to TRG. Their names were listed beside each hound's picture & bio on our website.

*Sandi Pcsolyar
Diane & Paul Passantino
Jim Evans*



What is Greyhound Pets of America, Why is it Important and How Does It Make a Difference in Greyhound Adoption?

By Kyle Catanzarite

You may not realize that when you adopted your Greyhound(s) from GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds (GPA/TRG), you immediately became part of the largest and most well recognized Greyhound adoption organization in the world!

Since a group of GPA/TRG officers, directors and volunteers will be attending the annual GPA Conference in Atlanta next month, I feel it is timely to explain what GPA is, why that is important for every Greyhound adopter to know and how that makes a difference to everyone who has adopted, or is considering adopting, a Greyhound from the GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds chapter.

What is GPA?

Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation founded in 1987. Since then, GPA Chapters have worked together to find loving homes for over 80,000 Greyhounds. This number is astounding to say the least!

The success of GPA has resulted, in large measure, because of its mission of acquainting people with the desirability of these wonderful sighthounds, educating them on breed-specific issues, informing them of the availability of Greyhounds nationwide and then assisting them in the selection of Greyhounds as pets.

Why is It Important?

Now that you know what GPA is, you are undoubtedly wondering why this is important when *you just want to adopt a Greyhound and give it a forever home in a loving environment.*

I feel the success of GPA is largely the result of the organizational control it maintains over the individual chapters. This is achieved through the establishment of bylaws that govern everything from the geographical locations of chapters, to the approval process for prospective chapters, to the communication of information, spoken and published, by individual chapters.

This control is especially important in maintaining, at the chapter level, the official policy of neutrality relative to Greyhound racing. While acknowledging that personal opinions do exist, there is an expectation that when representing GPA in any official manner, a position of neutrality will prevail.

How Does It Make a Difference?

Adherence to GPA Bylaws that regulate and control a chapter's operation, guarantees the integrity of the organization. Also, procedures followed in adopting a Greyhound from one chapter will be essentially the same as adopting a Greyhound from another chapter. Adoption procedures that include applicant interviews, home visits, inoculation record verifications and compatibility testing with small animals will remain consistent from one chapter to another.

Choosing to Adopt from GPA

Since 2002, I have had the privilege of being affiliated with GPA at the chapter level. The application and approval processes for chapter status are detailed, thorough and designed to ensure that the integrity of the organization and the quality of the adoptions are consistent with the GPA mission.

It is an honor to be part of the GPA adoption community that is comprised of so many wonderful people who work tirelessly to find forever homes for Greyhounds.

Greyt Wisdoms



It's simple math: Awareness = Adoption.

Those around you should already be aware of your passion for greyhounds, and chances are they have already considered adopting, or already have. Most of us that are already owned by a greyhound adopt again when the right opportunity presents itself.

It is those that have never been introduced to greys that we need to reach out to. Our meet-n-greets are ideal for this, but I feel we can do more without consuming any more of our time. Here are a few examples:

1. If you walk your grey, take a different path once in a while. By doing this, chances are good that someone different will greet you.
2. Most pet stores welcome dogs. If you shop at one, take your hound with you. He or she is sure to get attention.
3. When you're talking to someone that is unaware of your involvement with TRG, find an opening in the conversation to tell them about it.
4. If you're bored and looking for something to do, take your grey to a public area that's sure to have a lot of people. Impromptu meet-n-greets can do wonders!

Exposure = Awareness = Adoption!

Greyt Quotes

Did you say "Adopt?"



The following are quotes that I'd like to share.

1. We cannot direct the winds that blow in our future, but we can adjust our sails.
2. What lies within you, will decide what happens around you.
3. If you take no action nothing will change.
4. You can possess thoughts and feelings, but only acting on them will make a difference.

Our volunteers understand these quotes. They choose to make a difference. If you are reading this, and not currently volunteering, a few minutes of your time can help a greyhound find its forever home. Please call one of our board members to find out how you can help. Just a few minutes of your time can make a difference!

~~ Dan Durso

Remembering Those Hounds that have recently crossed the Bridge

*Rita, loved by the Sasso Family
Allie, loved by the Folino Family
Dolly, loved by the Jim Evans Family
Capri, loved by the Pscolyar Family
Quest, loved by the Knapp Family*





SOPHIE is a lovable 6-year old greyhound who never raced, giving her lots of time to contemplate the meaning of life.



.....A column offering advice for greyhounds and their people.

Dear Sophie,

My mom always tells me that us black dogs have more personality than all those "colorful" types. Why do you suppose that is?

 Your brother, Malden

Dear Malden,

I've always thought it's because we have to try harder. So many people overlook us black dogs and just want those pretty brindle girls and boys. **They** can get by on their good looks, but **we** have to keep our humans laughing with our antics. And sometimes it helps if we're a little bit naughty!

I know my mom is always telling me "Sophie, it's a good thing you're cute". I know I'm adorable, that's why I can always find new ways to make my mom crazy. And you can too, Malden; if you need some ideas, just call me!

 Sophie

Need Sophie's perspective? Send your questions to twogreytpups@me.com

Rock 'N Roos 2 Was a HUGE Success!!



GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds held our Rock 'N Roos Reunion 2 on Sunday, April 15th.

We had a lot of fun seeing all the hounds we've placed, and seeing how they've blossomed in their forever homes! There was food, fun, games, auctions and vendors, along with a greyhound Fun Run. There was a blessing of the hounds, and also action photography and still portraits of our fur babies!

The Fun Run was a lot of fun with hounds running between 0 and 34 mph!! 0 mph you ask? Yep, there were some uncooperative hounds! We finished off with our second annual roo-off. Many hounds joined in, and some we heard even practiced for the roo-ing! A short video of the roo-off can be seen on TRG's facebook page.

This year's reunion raised over \$1800 for the greyhounds!!! And more importantly, 4 greyhounds found their forever homes as a result of the Rock 'N Roos Reunion 2! It doesn't get any better than that!

We are starting to plan for the Rock 'N Roos Reunion 3 and would really appreciate any feedback you might wish to offer us...good or bad. Please feel free to email your thoughts or ideas to susy@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org Thanks to everyone who attended! You are GREYT!

*Thanks to the Following For their Donations to Our Online Auction &
Rock N'Roos Reunion ~~*

4 Paws Forever	Midnight Sun Beading
Adams County Winery	Muttluks, Inc.
Aid4Greys	Mutts Comics
Atlanta Paw	No Nude Hounds
Blue Man Group	Omega Fields
Canvas On Demand	Personalized Greyhounds
Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh	Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens
Carnegie Science Center	Pittsburgh Opera
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh Penguins
Cloud Star Corporation	Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium
Cozy Coats & More	Platinum Performance
Crown Collars	Premier Pet Products
Dog Joy Crafts	Redbarn Pet Products
Dogwise	Rock Your Pets
Freaky Dog People, Inc.	Sylvan and Sons
Kreative K-9 Fashions	Tender Touch Veterinary Hospital
FrommFamily.com	Texas Roadhouse
Gini's Greyhound Fashions	The Warhol
Greyhound Gang	Three Rivers Paintball Park & Pro-Shop
Greyhound Greetings	U.S.Bones.com
Greyhound Greetings	Walt Disney World
Greyt Outdoors	Wild Things for Greys, etc.
Grizzly Pet Products	Wysong
Happy Hounds Collars	Janet Klauss
Heinz History Center	Judd Schmidt
Honest Kitchen	Sandy Strychor/DaveKost
	Nancy Weiss

Greyhounds In Gettysburg 2012

GIG 2012 was held April 27--29, and a good time was had by all! This year's officially registered attendees totaled more than 600 adults, and close to 700 greyhounds. Add to that all the folks who don't bother to register, and you've got quite a crowd descending on the lovely town of Gettysburg.

Triangle Greyhound Society, the group that organizes GIG every year, did their usual greyt job putting this event together. Scavenger hunts, greyhound games, parades, ghost walks, greyhound costume contests, informational seminars, doggie/human ice cream socials, vendors, raffles, speed runs, fun runs, dining, shopping,... the list goes on. Not to mention the chance to see some of our nation's most historic sights.



If you're thinking of attending next year, make your reservations early! The hotels fill up quickly, I'd advise you to start looking for a room early in the year.

The dates for GIG 2013 are April 26 – 28. The official website is www.greyhoundsingettysburg.com

GIG is always a fun time, and definitely worth the trip!

~~ Ruth Scheller

Shyla's Journey

by Susy Durso

October 22, 2011 is the day "Bart's Spendabuck" came home to Greensburg. It is the day she started her 'new' life, with a new name - Shyla.

It all started at the end of September when TRG got an email from Dennis Tyler of GPA/Central Florida who was delivering dogs to TRG on 10/22. A small, petite female who was 'spooked' needed to be placed in a foster home rather than staying in a kennel if she was to have a chance at being adopted. She was socially challenged. She had been given the nickname 'Lady'.



The decision was made to bring her to our house to foster...after all, our home had 6 greyhounds, 5 cats and 3 kids. If our busy home couldn't bring her out of her shell, who could? "Bart's Spendabuck" was a huge mouthful for such a petite hound, and Lady was too common. She was a shy lady, so hence she became Shyla!

Shyla was only 19 months old and had run a couple juvenile races, but something startled her on the track, and she bolted. Once the trainers and track staff were able to capture her, she was fearful of everything, so she was retired.

Dan and I went to Tanzar Kennels to pick her up only 3-4 hours after her arrival from Florida. We managed to get a collar and leash on her. We got her to the lobby and she bolted under the desk, still attached to her leash! One half hour later, I managed to get her out from under the counter...by carrying her! She was very quiet on the ride home.

We got her into the house and the other hounds greeted her enthusiastically! She went into the crate and huddled in the back, shaking, tail tucked between her legs. For 2 weeks, we needed to crawl into the crate to pull her out to take her outside. Our yard is fenced, so she was able to freely follow the other hounds and relieve herself. We were leaving the door to the crate open and removed it after 2-3 weeks. She stayed in it and wouldn't come near us. We let her have her space, but constantly sat near the crate and talked to her gently.

One day, she came out of the crate, chose the furthest corner of the living room and claimed it as her own. Greyhound 'Bo' became her chosen partner/protector. He was the only one who could sleep next to her without her trembling. She officially joined the pack! She would engage in play with the other hounds when she thought no one was watching.

We took the crate down and life began. Little by little, day-by-day, she got more curious about her surroundings.

Thanksgiving was here and she smelled food, so she ventured into the kitchen! She came within a foot of us and had her ears up! Sometime around Thanksgiving, she slowly started to approach us, but only IF we were sitting. Quick movements sent her flying away, with her tail tucked between her legs again. If we were still, we were finally able to pet her and show affection!! By February, she was seeking us out for attention regularly, but again, only if we were sitting!

Although a mild winter, we did have a few snowstorms. Shyla, being from Florida, had never seen snow and was hysterical! She would go outside and run with her nose down in the snow and the toss it up in the air! Once, she even ran to go out in the 'potty pit' and slid right off the deck! She stopped, turned and looked as if to say "what just happened??" then turned and did it again! And again! She was having fun!!

Visitors would come and go, and she would stand in the corner with her tail tucked between her legs, trembling. When no one paid her any mind during this time, she calmed down. Only Kyle, the 'greyhound whisperer' was allowed to sit near her and talk to her, and she was even allowed to pet her!

In January, she learned that the garage door opener meant Mom and Dad were home and that was a good thing! In February, she learned that it was ok to be excited that mom and dad came home! In March, she started to greet us when we came home! But we couldn't pet her right away. She would migrate to her corner and we could pet her there, but the best part? Her tail was no longer between her legs!!! Today? She comes flying when we come home and we are allowed to steal a quick pat on the head before she realizes what just happened!

Spring time brought forth 'THE yard'. During nice weather, we would open the gate and allow the dogs to play in the yard. The first time we did this, she flew out into the yard, froze, and trembled with her tail tucked. She watched as the others ran and played ball. We don't have good drainage in the back yard, so we can't let them out when the ground is soggy, but they got to go out a lot more than usual this spring. About mid April, Shyla actually came up to Dan and let him pet her outside!! It was brief, but a breakthrough!

Shyla now plays ball! She will pounce on the tennis ball, pick it up, throw it up in the air, and then chase it! She learned that from Bo. She will also run and play a greyhound form of tag with the other hounds. She's quick too! She runs circles around Malden and Bo, who are 'crazy'!! Just yesterday morning, Shyla came out to the kitchen and pounced, attempting to engage me in play! That was a first! She

pounced, danced in circles and ran to the door. I let the dogs into the yard and she took off flying, running in circles, then grabbed a ball and looked at me as if to say “thanks mom!”

Shyla is still socially challenged – outside of her environment that is. But, she is very comfortable in her surroundings and we are her forever family! You see, we are foster failures for the 3rd time! We signed her adoption papers after just a month! Shyla is a beautiful, healthy **AND** happy greyhound who is allowing us to share in new joys everyday.

Time is Ticking..... Don't let them Bug you this summer!

With Winter 2011-12 being described by some as the “winter that wasn’t”, one item that greyhound caretakers should be aware of is the increase in the tick population. Here in Western Pennsylvania, local news programs have done stories on the increase in ticks, and subsequently the increase in tick bites and related health problems.

My family, human and hound, have already had a couple encounters with ticks this year. For some reason, both our greyhound Rumkin and my husband Bill seem to attract ticks. Rummy has been the ‘host’ so far this year, once to an engorged wood tick on his ear, and once to a deer tick attached to his underbelly which I found when I saw the characteristic ‘bull’s eye’ rash. (Both of these tick incidents happened early, one in February and one in late March).

Why so many ticks? The mild weather did not offer a prolonged period of freezing weather to kill most of the ticks, the food supply for deer has been plentiful (and earlier), increasing numbers of deer live in the suburbs, and there is possibly a developing resistance to some flea and tick preventatives.



Whatever the reason, we as caretakers should be extra vigilant in protecting and/or seeking treatment for our beloved furkids! ALWAYS seek advice and treatment from your pet’s veterinarian.

If you walk through wooded or grassy areas, make sure to check your greyhound for fleas and ticks following the activity. Even uncut high grass or weeds on your property may harbor these pests. These insects are small! (See above picture.) AND after you check your hound, check yourself too!

If you find a tick on your greyhound, remove it with a pair of tweezers or a device such as a “tick key” or “twister” that you can purchase from a pet supply store. Put the tick in a ziploc bag to show your veterinarian, and call or take your dog for an appointment as advised by the vet’s office.

If your vet feels it necessary, your greyhound may be placed on an antibiotic and a blood test may be done later.

Remember to keep your greyhound up-to-date on preventatives. There are also holistic options available. With Rumkin, it was decided to switch him to another type of preventative which offered a repellent in addition to the preventative. So far so good, no more ticks since the change.

~~ Louise Evans



TRG advises you to always consult a veterinary professional for health concerns and care of your greyhound.

GPA/THREE RIVERS GREYHOUNDS, INC.

CONTACT US AT INFO@GPATREERIVERSGREYHOUNDS.ORG
GPA /Three Rivers Greyhounds, PO Box 111202, Pittsburgh PA 15238
Phone / Fax: (724) 216-5820

President – Ruth Scheller
Vice President – Louise Evans
Secretary/Treasurer – Susy Durso
Directors—Sue Yanakos, Kyle Catanzarite

