

News and Roos from GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds

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As of this September, Three Rivers Greyhounds has been a chapter of Greyhound Pets of America placing retired racing greyhounds and those not qualified for racing into forever homes for seven (7) years. That's a lot of trips to select and pick up adoptables, home visits, veterinary appointments and advice given to adopters, not to mention the volunteer hours, donations and fundraising events.

There have been changes in how TRG brings adoptable greyhounds into the program, transporting by car, hauler and airplane, oh my! Dogs come to us by way of Wheeling Island Greyhound Adoption Center and Florida GPA chapters that have a presence at an active racing track. Our group does not hesitate to take hard-to-place greyhounds (due to age, medical conditions, etc.) and place them into forever homes.

A new avenue for TRG is fostering dogs that come from the Wheeling Island track after they have had a broken leg repaired. These greyhounds need a foster home with people who will follow the medical protocol that is prescribed for them, which includes intense crate rest, limited activity and follow-ups with the track veterinarian.

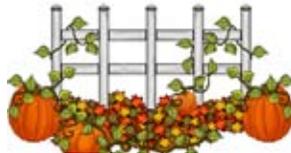


Could YOU or YOUR FAMILY be that special someone who can devote time to care for a rehabbing greyhound? If so, please contact us at info@gpatrg.org.

Ruth Scheller, President
Sue Yanakos, Treasurer

Kyle Catanzarite, Vice President
Louise Evans, Secretary

Lisa Paulson, Compliance Officer



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2016 GPA National Business Meeting



The 2016 GPA National Business Meeting will be held Saturday, September 17, 2016 in Austin, Texas. This year, the meeting will be hosted by GPA/Central Texas.

This annual meeting is often held in conjunction with a national conference, which occurred in Pittsburgh in 2014, or independent of a conference. Each GPA chapter is expected to send a chapter delegate to the meeting, or a proxy for the voting that takes place during this meeting. A variety of topics will be addressed during this conference in addition to the election of National Board members whose terms are expiring.

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Treasurer Sue Yanakos and Vice-President Kyle Catanzarite will attend the meeting to represent the chapter. A summary of the meeting will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Greyhound Adoption Action Alliance Update



The Greyhound Adoption Action Alliance is the recently approved replacement name for the former United Pathfinder Project.

This group, comprised of people from a variety of greyhound adoption organizations, continues to prepare for the inevitability that future legislation will impact the adoption of Greyhounds. This legislation is expected to result in large numbers of retired racing Greyhounds needing to be moved quickly from racetracks and farms when racetracks discontinue racing.

The Action Alliance leadership consists of twelve members who are experienced, independent volunteers in the greyhound adoption community. They have over 200 years of combined active adoption experience and have transitioned more than 29,000 greyhounds into homes.

Our group plans to contact most of the Greyhound adoption groups nationally about how we can all work together to deal with Greyhounds who will become available for adoption in the future.

The preliminary focus of the group is to contact as many Greyhound adoption groups as possible, throughout the U.S. and Canada. The groups will be asked to form a network to work cooperatively in making arrangements to find as many homes as possible when states pass legislation to discontinue or significantly curtail racing.

This effort has been ongoing and will continue to grow in response to decisions affecting the racing industry. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Adoption Action Alliance through GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, please let us know. ~ Kyle Catanzarite

NOTE: You can visit the group's website at <http://greyhoundadoptionactionalliance.org/>

FROM THE KITCHEN . . .

Thank you to Bev Stulen for sharing her “Pupzelles” recipe for our treat-seeking greyhounds.

PUPZELLES

1 1/3 c. flour
1/2 c. corn meal
1 1/4 cheddar cheese, shredded
Handful of crushed dog treats
1/4 c. parsley
1/3 c. vegetable oil
3 eggs
6 to 8 Tbsp. water



Using a food processor, crush the dog treats and then add the remaining ingredients, and blend in food processor. Adjust the water amount to get the desired consistency of batter. Using a pizzelle iron, bake each pupzelle until browned (approximately 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 minutes).

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**THANK YOU** to the following for donations to Three Rivers Greyhounds ~

In memory of sweet foster hound Gyp, by Bev Stulen  
In memory of Gyp, Paul and Diane Passantino

Wear Woof Rehoming Fashion | Saving Pets  
PetValu – meet and greets during March 2016

Care At Home, Arnold PA - Sponsor a Greyhound



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REMEMBERING THOSE HOUNDS THAT HAVE RECENTLY CROSSED THE BRIDGE...

Grasshopper, loved by EreK and Kayla Bylinowski
Gyp Passantino, loved by Diane and Paul Passantino
Bonita Leyland, loved by Amy and Randy Leyland
Max Fahringer, loved by Jane Fahringer



To our Friends at Three Rivers Greyhounds



Early on the morning of Tuesday, August 9th, our beloved greyhound, Grasshopper, was put to sleep at Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center after a series of medical issues, ultimately succumbing to severe pneumonia.

To say that Grasshopper (or Buddy Boy or Tiny Dog or any other of his dozen nicknames) brought us joy is completely understated. Every person that had the opportunity to meet him was instantly smitten with the big fella. He had the unique ability to charm both the young and old, and never met a belly rub or cookie he didn't like.

At the risk of sounding cliché, Grasshopper was unequivocally the best dog we could've been blessed with. He was keystone to our lives. Silly yet patient, protective yet kind, but above all unconditionally loving. Whether it was morning kisses goodbye for Mom, or nightly snuggles on the couch for Dad, Grasshopper was there for us always.

Our home feels empty without him; there is no dancing with glee at the jiggle of a leash, no wagging tail or pattering paws, no guarding the backyard resolutely from squirrels. We are deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved pup after only 3 ½ short years, but take solace in the fact that he is no longer suffering or feeling pain, that he is finally resting peacefully at the farm after his last race.

We want to personally thank you for introducing Grasshopper into our lives. Words truly cannot capture the joy and love that he brought. He was a source of happiness, comfort, laughter, and love that will stay with us forever. We are tremendously grateful to have called him our own.

With Heavy Hearts,

Erek & Kayla Bylinowski



MAD MEX FAJITA PARTY, A SIZZLING SUCCESS!

A fun night was had by all attendees on August 16 at Mad Mex in Robinson Township! Everyone enjoyed all the great food and friendship.

Congratulations to Rich Campolo, winner of the 32" Samsung LED TV!

A total of **\$1,490** was raised at the event. These funds will help with veterinary expenses of greyhounds that are brought into TRG's adoption program.

A special thank you to the employees at Mad Mex, and to Lisa Paulson for organizing another successful event.





Two Greyt Upcoming Events for Fall

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan to attend these TRG events that will take place this fall!

TRG BATH-A-THON

WHEN: Sunday, September 25th
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Tan-Zar Kennels, Wexford. The kennel is located at the intersection of Mingo Road and the State Gamelands Road.



For a **\$20 donation**, your hound(s) will be bathed, brushed and receive a nail trimming from professional groomers!

All Greyhounds and their humans are welcome to attend. Other short-haired, large breed dogs are welcome too. **No small dogs PLEASE!**

There will be snacks and cold drinks, in addition to opportunities to mingle and share Greyhound stories. Don't miss this greyt way to enjoy an afternoon with greyt hounds and their humans!

TAILGATING WITH THE HOUNDS!

YOU'RE INVITED TO A
TAILGATE PARTY
to benefit greyhounds!



WHEN: Sunday, October 2, 2016
1 to 4 pm

WHERE: Domenico's Ristorante, Cranberry Township

MENU: Pizza, Wings, Salad, Desserts

COST: \$25 donation (\$12 for children ages 5-10)

There will be a 50/50 drawing, Raffle Baskets, and Door Prizes. TRG's current adoptable dogs will attend, weather-permitting.

Plan on a greyt Sunday afternoon with all proceeds benefitting the greyhounds! Limited tickets, so reserve your spot ASAP. Contact Lisa @ lilipaulson@gmail.com for details on obtaining tickets.

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contributions made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2016 are fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds.

The Shy Greyhound

by Sandy Strychor, ABCDT

Greyhounds are known to have a sweet, gentle personality, and they love to be around their family. We are all familiar with the general description of the greyhound as a 'Velcro dog'. It is one of their most endearing qualities. Yet we also know that there are some shy greys too, and a good number of them. They range from the cautious dog that takes a few minutes to a few hours to warm up to a new person.

Then, there is the other end of the spectrum...what many of us know as 'the Spook'. So shy they bolt when you get out of a chair, look in their direction, or even enter the room. They never come up to you for pets like the majority of greyhounds do. How do these traits exist side-by-side in the same breed? The simple answer is that greyhounds are bred for their ability to run fast - not their personality.

A dog's personality is the combination of its genetic makeup and its environment. Spooks have what is known as 'idiopathic shyness'. The hounds probably started life at the bottom of the pecking order in their little family unit as puppies because they tend to be very submissive and nervous types. In addition, if they weren't good runners, they got less human attention by trainers, losing the formative window of opportunity to learn that humans are okay.

Many of the great runners in the greyhound racing world were spooks. Four of them –Westy, Whizzer, Representation, and Unruly -- had an enormous genetic contribution to the spook gene being passed on. When spooks breed, they tend to produce a high percentage of puppies with the spook gene. And so the trait is passed on and on.

So, what can we do to help our shy greyhound? It turns out, there is a lot we can do!

- ◆ Identify who the hound is shy around. For instance, if it is men, is it *all* men, or just men with beards, or baseball caps? Maybe sunglasses?
- ◆ Talk in a calm voice.
- ◆ Move slowly and confidently around your dog.
- ◆ Lots of gentle touches and in small doses.
- ◆ Give lots of hand-held treats. You may have to do this sitting down and looking away or even put your hand behind your back and look away.
- ◆ Establish a routine for walks, food, and bedtime.
- ◆ Apply lots of praise.
- ◆ Consider using Adaptil (containing D.A.P. or dog appeasing pheromone). Adaptil contains a synthetic version of the pheromone momma dogs give off when nursing their puppies. Studies show that many dogs find it very comforting.
- ◆ Avoid crowded places where many strangers are around.

Shy dogs often become more confident with obedience classes, especially behaviors like 'touch', or targeting, and agility.

Reward all positive behaviors. For some dogs, even a look in your direction may be cause for a reward.

Sandy has been certified by the Animal Behavior College for dog training. She has worked with retired racing greyhounds for over 15 years, and currently has 2 retired racers along with 2 other dogs & 4 cats.



Sandy continues to donate generously of her time and talents as part of TRG's fundraising efforts.

Desensitization and counter conditioning can be a key to unlocking a shy dog. Start with a 'safe' distance and reward with a super yummy treat, and then gradually bring the scary thing closer.

Many shy dogs respond well to 'Calming Signals' a system of body language pioneered by Turid Rugaas, a canine behaviorist. Calming signals are how dogs communicate to other dogs. They use them to resolve conflicts, when they are fearful or stressed, and to calm each other. You can use them too!

- ◆ Head turns and avoiding direct eye contact. A quick turn away says 'calm down, I'm no threat'. Approach in a curve instead of straight on to your dog.
- ◆ Lick your lips. Dogs lick their noses when they are stressed. This is harder for us, so lick your lips instead!
- ◆ Yawn. Dogs don't yawn because they are sleepy. They are saying 'I'm nervous and I need to calm myself'.
- ◆ Turn your body sideways when approaching your shy pup.
- ◆ Sit or lay down. This is less scary than standing up.
- ◆ Pet your shy dog under the chin or ribs. Most dogs don't really like their heads petted although most learn to accept it.
- ◆ Slow blinks say 'I'm a friend'.



Learn how to do **Tellington T-Touch** for dogs. This method of touching and massaging your dog probably engages the parasympathetic nervous system allowing muscles to relax - slowing the heart rate and lowering blood pressure and bringing stress levels down. It can be very helpful with anxiety-based behavioral issues. There are many videos of how to perform these techniques on YouTube.

A last consideration... Medications like alprazolam (or Xanax for dogs) may help for a severely shy dog. In addition, the National Greyhound Adoption Program (NGAP) has stated 'Greyhound spooks, shy greyhounds, and low esteem greyhounds...we have learned that many of these greyhounds have been able to come out of their shell, join family members, interact better with other dogs, and enjoy life better, solely due to the positive effects of thyroid supplementation'.

Also from NGAP, 'Greyhounds that are low-esteem, shy, thunderstorm phobic, spooky, afraid of visitors all fit into this category of dogs that would probably benefit from thyroid supplement. Clinical signs are the primary factors in determining if your dog should be treated, as opposed to test results. Our most significant concern is how your greyhound feels about himself and his general esteem level.'

The above may be something to explore with your veterinarian. I was unable to validate this information with scientific studies so be sure to work with your veterinarian.

A shy dog may overcome fears in a few weeks. A spook may take a few years. Be patient. When bonding with a shy dog happens, it is a life changing experience for these wonderful dogs.

References:

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http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/13_8/features/TTouch-For-Dogs_20039-1.html

<http://www.ttouch.com/howtodoTTouch.shtml>

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WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

We love our volunteers, both human and canine! Meet & Greets are a wonderful way to educate people about a greyhound's traits and their adaptability going from racetrack to forever home. Below are pictures of our volunteers 'in action'. Recently, we have added a few new sites, Pittsburgh Mills Petco and Plow & Hearth, Robinson. For all these M&G's, we need people and canines.

Check out the locations and dates here to see if you can step up and volunteer.

<https://www.gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org/events/meet-greets/>

Through our meet and greets over the last several months, we received \$1000+ in donations from both people and stores.



Pittsburgh Mills Petco



Butler Crossings Petco



Greyhound Bed Fail Demonstration



Plow and Hearth



Plow & Hearth greeter