

# News and Roos

From

## GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.



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Issue #11



It may not feel like spring, but there are a lot of happy greyhounds with a 'spring in their step'. And Three Rivers Greyhounds has many greyt things to report.

Nine greyhounds have found forever homes and several more hounds are anxiously awaiting moving onto their new homes. And the greyt thing is that we couldn't have done it without all our volunteers! Every time you help at a meet and greet event or talk to someone who asks you about your long-legged companion, you are helping the hounds and greyhound adoption. Keep up the good work - there are many more hounds waiting in the wings for that special someone!

We would like to thank each and every one of you who has given of their time to help with various events, and also to thank those that contributed in anyway, including sponsorships. Thank you to all who sent in holiday donations to TRG! Thanks to you, we were able to raise over \$1000 for medical care for the greyhounds! A listing of those that contributed can be found on page 4 of the newsletter.

We are most greytful to the Petco Foundation who recently awarded us proceeds from their Tree of Life campaign in December!

Another fantastic online auction was held in February. We had 43 people sign up to bid on 58 auction goodies! Seven full days of intense bidding resulted in raising over \$900 for the hounds. Thank you to all who participated!!!

Still to come is our annual Rock N' Roos Reunion scheduled for Sunday, May 5 at Blueberry Hill Park in Franklin Park, the same venue as the last two years. We hope you will take time out of your schedule to be part of this fun event. We will have a Cinco de Mayo theme this year! Sombreros for the hounds and a taco bar for the humans! This promises to be a fun event, and all proceeds raised will benefit greyhound adoption. Check out the details on page 6.

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# *The Wonderful World of Seniors!*

by

Sue Ballard

(With Inspiration from Her Seniors Past and Present)

My love affair with Greyhounds began in April 2004, thanks to my oldest son, Drew, who worked with them at a veterinary clinic and told me what wonderful dogs they are.

Drew helped me adopt two wonderful "Greys" and my love affair with the breed was immediate and passionate. Marley and Ayla, both 4 years old, were so exceptional that I decided to add another one to my heart and home. So... I adopted 5-year-old Suki, sight unseen! I thought this would be my "full house" of hounds, but I made the mistake of "just looking" at the website for available hounds.

The picture of Camelot "bit me" immediately, but I resisted the temptation to adopt her as she was already 10 years old. It took two weeks of admiring her picture to make the trip to the kennel, where she was waiting to be adopted, for me to meet her. She won my heart and came home with me that day!

I never regretted my decision to adopt Camelot because she introduced me to the "wonderful world of seniors". She had received good care during her racing career, but because she had always lived in a kennel, everything about home living was new to her!

For the first time in her life, she had a dog bed, toys, treats, and unending affection. She made my heart feel so good because it seemed as though she was paying me back for everything I had given her!!

I was devastated to learn just 10 months later that Camelot had cancer. Many years ago, I read something in a dog book that said, "The only pain my dog ever gave me was the day he

died." Even though my heart was broken, I kept remembering what a wonderful, loving life I was able to give her and all the affection I received from her in return.

*Adelaide & Camelot*



I was thrilled when a call came to let me know that one of

Camelot's daughters, Adelaide, was available for adoption. Camelot and Adelaide had three days together before I let Camelot cross over the Rainbow Bridge. Camelot touched my heart in such a way that I decided to adopt seniors exclusively, including Suki and Kali who were both 10 years old. Adelaide went on to become certified as a therapy dog. She brought so much joy and fond memories of their own dogs to both nursing home patients and wonderful special needs people.

In most cases, you can't tell which senior is older and which is younger. Suki and Kali both enjoyed providing therapy as much as the younger hounds. In many cases, they actually made better therapy dogs. It seems the seniors have a remarkable inner sense when it comes to those in a nursing home.

I never replace a Greyhound with another because that would be impossible. Each Greyhound is unique, and I have come to realize that I can give more deserving Greyhounds wonderful homes for as long as needed.



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

*Dear Sophie,*

Why is it that most female greyhounds can jump in the car, but most of the males need to be lifted? Don't they like going for rides?

Signed, Slightly Confused

*Dear Slightly,*

That's a very good question. In my own personal opinion it's because girls are smarter. It's really just that simple.

But if I have to give a more thoughtful answer, conventional wisdom would say it's because of how we live at the racetrack.

At the track kennels, we all live in two-tiered crates. The boys are kept in the bottom row of crates and the girls are kept in the top row. The girls have to learn to jump pretty early on, while the boys just walk into their crates.

Doesn't it just figure we have to do all the work? That could also explain why some of us girls have a little bit of attitude!

So while there may be a scientific explanation, I still say it's because girls are smarter.

Always Your Friend, Sophie

### *A Special Birthday Gift!*

TRG was the recipient of a very special gift from a wonderful young lady. Maren Smocer is a wonderful example of what gifts and selflessness are all about.

Last year on her birthday, instead of birthday presents, she asked that donations be made to TRG in her honor! Thank you Maren!!!! You are a very dear friend to the greyhounds!



The Smocer family adopted one of the three original greyhounds placed for adoption by Three Rivers Greyhounds. Dutch is now enjoying the good life with this caring family!



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

## *A Special Thank You to Our Holiday Donors!*

Many thanks to the following individuals who donated to our holiday donation drive ~



*Adel & Jeff Knapp*

*Pauline Peters*

*Patty Osche*

*Carrie Schmucker*

*Shawn & Terri Marchewka*

*Cindy Losego*

*Bonnie & John Morrell*

*Lynne Southworth & friends*

*Charlie Glynn*

*Laura Graham*

*Jennifer Krandel*

*The Valentines*

*Frances & Donald Hicks*

*Jeff & Patty Fondrk*

*Irene & Larry Mistick*

*Sandy Strychor*

*Paul & Diane Passantino*

*Linda Kostka*

*The Smocers*

*The Paulsons*

*Carol Kenny*

*Michelle Pcsolyar*

*Linda & Gene Sasso*

### *Greyt Wisdoms*

*Greyt  
Wisdom*



*by Dan Durso*

Familiar routine sounds can help train your greyhounds.

In our home, the icemaker in our refrigerator became that trigger. We can use it at anytime during the day without a reaction from them, but that will change at bedtime. Every evening around 10:30 pm, we begin the process of shutting off the TV, filling up the water bowls, and scooping the litter box.

One of the last things we do is take our medications. My wife loves cold water in the morning and always fills a glass with ice and water and puts it in the fridge overnight. It is the sound of THAT dispensing of ice that makes the hounds realize its bedtime. Bo will begin barking and heading straight to the side door. Lina, the only hound that sleeps with us, will stand in the hallway and stare at the bedroom and begins to whimper. Mattie and Malden, when they come in, will race to see who can get to the recliner first. This is the only piece of living room furniture they are permitted on, and they are the only two dogs that want it.

We didn't train them to react to the icemaker; they developed that on their own. It amazes me that they only do this at bedtime, and it's triggered by the sound of the icemaker dispensing ice.

*~ Dan Durso*

*Remembering These Hounds that have recently  
crossed the Rainbow Bridge....*

Pearl Valentine, loved by the Valentine family  
Arlo Scheller, loved by Ruth Scheller & family



*Greyhound Factoid ~ Did you know that...*

A greyhound has stereoscopic vision. This means that they see an object with their two eyes at the same time with both eyes set in the same plane, with their vision being suited to seeing moving objects. A greyhound's total field of vision is 270 degrees while a human's visual field is about 180 degrees.



The typical Sighthound has a light, lean head, which is scientifically referred to as being dolichocephalic in its proportions. This shape can create the illusion that their heads are longer than usual. These breeds have a wider field of vision but a smaller overlap between the eyes, and thus possibly poorer depth perception in some of their field of view. Most, if not all, dog breeds have less visual acuity than their ancestor, the wolf.

Currently, no science-based evidence can confirm that Sighthounds have a higher visual acuity than other types of dogs. However, there is increasing evidence that dolichocephalic breeds have a high number of retinal ganglion cells in their "visual streak", and therefore retain a more heightened sensitivity to objects and rapid movement in the horizontal field of vision.

References:

"Vision in Dogs", Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association by Paul R Miller and Christopher J Murphy, (December 1995)  
Brain behavior and Evolution, McGreevy, Grassia, and Harman (December 2004)

# *Third Annual Rock N' Roos Reunion*

Sunday, May 5th 3-7 p.m.  
Blueberry Hill Park, Franklin Park PA



Blessing of the Hounds  
Food Games Vendors Chinese Auction  
Contests

Come Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with TRG!  
"Best Cinco de Mayo Costume on a Greyhound" Contest  
Bring your hound in costume!

Donation of \$10 per adult/Children under 12 are free.  
All proceeds benefit TRG's mission of finding forever homes for retired racing greyhounds  
and those hounds that do not qualify for racing!



Fun Run for Hounds \$3.00 Hound Photography \$5.00  
Nail Clipping \$5.00  
Whipped Cream shooters for Hounds \$1.00

Taco Bar & Other Goodies for "Humans" (included)  
Our Exclusive New T-shirt "50 Shades of Greyhounds" will be for sale.



Please let us know if you plan on coming, so we can be prepared!  
Send an email to [info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org](mailto:info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org)

Hope to see everyone there!!

Thank you to the following donors who recently 'sponsored' a hound on the TRG website!

*Diane and Paul Passantino*

*Jennifer Krandel*

*Robyn Carmen*



*Sometimes "Failure" is a Good Thing*

by Ruth Scheller

For all those who've ever "fostered" a greyhound, you understand what I mean! I have failed twice myself, and I know several other people who have as well. It's nothing to be ashamed of!

Sophie was my first foster failure. In my defense, I rather suspected I was kidding myself, but I went into it with the right attitude. Or so I thought. The very day I picked her up at the kennel and was shown her pedigree, I saw that she shared a bloodline with my first greyhound. That was a number of years ago, before I knew that lots of greyhounds are related to lots of greyhounds, but it was all the excuse I needed!

Several years later, along came Camry, an 8-year black beauty with the gentlest eyes I'd ever seen. This time I knew I was going to succeed; I'd prepare her for life in her forever home and send her on her way with a kiss on the head. Of course, the first time someone showed the slightest bit of interest in her, that was the end of that. She wasn't going anywhere!

Just recently, TRG took in an older male hound from a family who no longer had time for him. Knowing it might be a while before we would find a home for a senior, we set about finding a foster home for him.

I contacted Adel and Jeff, a wonderful couple with lots of love to give. They had fostered before, so I thought they might be willing to give us a hand with Dash. They didn't hesitate, knowing full well they may be in for an extended commitment.

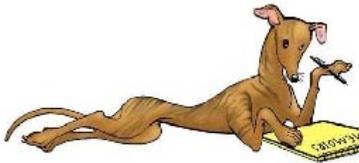


Not even a week later, Adel told me they'd like to adopt him. Of course, we were thrilled, knowing Dash would have a loving home for the rest of his senior years.

Sometimes, despite our resolve, that special hound chooses us and takes the decision out of our hands. Just recently, Adel confessed it only took about 23 hours for her and Jeff to realize Dash had found his forever home. I know he's going to live out his golden years in comfort, showered with the love and affection he deserves.

All I have to say is **doG** bless them, and all the rest of the failures"!

## *Mark Your Calendars for Future Greyhound Events*



- ✓ **Linda Evans Art Class** April 20, 2013 @ 1 p.m.  
Cranberry Twp., Public Library Donation ~ \$45.00 per person
- ✓ **Fore the Hounds Golf Outing** ~ July 28, 2013  
Lakevue Golf Club, Butler PA
- ✓ **Bowling for Greyhounds** August 4, 2013 @ 2 p.m.  
Greensburg PA

### *Art Class for Greyhound Lovers*

Design Artist, Art Educator and Greyhound “Mom”, Linda Evans will take students, Regardless of talent, through a special step by step process to a finished, framed piece of art.

Participants may choose from an array of design motifs, including, but not limited to, greyhounds! Register online! [www.lindakevans.com](http://www.lindakevans.com)

Those that attended last year had a greyt experience!



*Please note our new mailing address listed below!*

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