

News and Roos

From

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc.



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Wishing You A Wonderful Holiday Season!

GPA / Three Rivers Greyhounds' mission "to promote adoption of the retired Greyhounds into loving homes" has remained strong in 2013.

- This year more than thirty dogs have found their forever home; perhaps one of them is a new addition to your family.
- Our dedicated volunteers have given countless hours to promoting the greyhounds. We are so grateful for each and every one of you. You are a vital part of the organization.

However, this year Three Rivers Greyhounds has incurred excessive medical expenses that were not budgeted. TRG's adoption fee generally covers only a portion of the medical expenses to get a greyhound ready for placement in a home, and from time to time, a need for unexpected medical intervention arises that requires additional medical treatment. We are committed to the greyhounds and no special needs dog is turned away.

Would you consider a year-end gift to Three Rivers Greyhounds to provide the necessary finances to continue our mission? We are suggesting a donation of \$13.00 (think 2013) for each greyhound in your family. However, any amount is greatly appreciated. 100% of your donation is tax-deductible.

If you choose, an acknowledgement of your gift will be included in our March 2014 newsletter.

Thank you for your support. The GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Board of Directors wishes you & your loved ones a happy, healthy New Year.

Ruth Scheller, President
Susy Durso, Secretary / Treasurer
Susan Yanakos, Director

Louise Evans, Vice President
Kyle Catanzarite, Director



PLEASE CUT OUT AND MAIL TO:

GPA/TRG, PO Box 147, Greensburg, PA 156101

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION _____

YES Please acknowledge my donation in the next TRG newsletter.

Thank You!



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Glad Tidings of "Greyt" Cheer...and Concern

By Kyle Catanzarite

It's the time of year when our thoughts turn to the many joys that come with the holiday season! Often, the holidays are a time for reflecting on past accomplishments and setting goals for the future.

Those of us who have, for many years, dedicated our time and energy to finding forever homes for greyhounds are always happy to share the good news about adoptions. Conversely, we're sometimes reluctant to share information about the realities of the current condition of greyhound racing and what we, as greyhound lovers and crusaders, will likely be facing in the not-too-distant future.

First, the "greyt" cheer...

Since 2009, the year that GPA approved Three Rivers Greyhounds for chapter status, the annual number of adoptions has continued to increase. In order to cover the many expenses associated with these adoptions, a highly successful team of hard-working volunteers has raised thousands of dollars and continues to identify and implement new ideas for fundraising. The really good news is that GPA/TRG continues to be a driving force in reaching the ultimate goal of finding a home for every greyhound available for adoption.

And now the concerns...

For the past few years, there has been a steady decline in the popularity of greyhound racing. This is evident in the number of racetrack closings and the reduction in the number of races at those racetracks still in operation.

There are many factors responsible for the decline, but the most influential is the growing number of casinos springing up at racetracks. Gambling enthusiasts seem to be much more attracted to slot machines and table games than they are to greyhounds chasing a lure. In addition, simulcast racing at most racetracks makes it possible to place money on a greyhound to win, place or show in any race, anytime and anywhere! The impact of the decline in racing has been financially devastating to many greyhound breeders and owners, who are now faced with making significant reductions in operating expenses.

Reductions in earnings mean fewer greyhounds are heading to racetracks after training. It also means that when a greyhound is no longer competitive at a particular racetrack, it is rarely affordable to move the dog to another racetrack to continue racing. More greyhounds are leaving racing at a younger age than ever before.

A case in point is the large number of greyhounds currently racing at Florida racetracks. Because there are more racetracks in Florida than anywhere else in the country, there are more greyhounds waiting for homes in Florida than anywhere else in the country. The dilemma and challenge for the greyhound adoption community is to organize, fund and implement a transport network that will enable large numbers of greyhounds to be moved to non-racing states where they will have more opportunities for adoption.

The cost of this challenge is high. Currently, Required care expenses, including spays/neuters, boarding, food and medical attention, far exceed the adoption fees. And as racetracks continue to close and more greyhounds become available for adoption, it seems inevitable that a greyhound "tsunami" is on the horizon. How the adoption community will rise to this challenge in cooperation with the racing industry must be addressed comprehensively and quickly. It is up to each of us to become part of a herculean effort to ensure the safety of every greyhound that leaves a racetrack.

As part of an effort to raise awareness of the urgent need to ready ourselves for the work ahead, we ask that you consider making a donation to GPA/TRG in any amount. Only with your help can we ensure that every greyhound available for adoption has an opportunity to be adopted!

Have a Very Happy Holiday Season and All Best Wishes to You, Your Families and Your Hounds for the New Year!



What's on Your Greyhound's Wish List?

It's hard to believe, but in the last two decades, there has been an explosion of items available for your furry family members. When we adopted our first greyhound in 1992, we had to order her crate through the mail from New Jersey and her coat from Kansas, and as far as dog blankets, etc., we cut a bedspread in half and folded it up for her dog bed. Nylabones were considered a good toy for them.



Today, the pet industry is a multi-million dollar industry that provides more options to owners as well as their pets.

I decided to look at some of the newest offerings available this holiday season. Most of them serve a functional purpose, but a few are purely for your greyhound (or for your enjoyment).

One of the newest items that I've seen are food puzzles, dishes with maze-like ridges in them, that slow down your hound's eating as he or she tries to get the food out of the curves in the dish. This might be helpful for your hound's digestion.

There are also treat balls, in which you can place treats/food; when your hound moves the ball around, treats will come out of several openings. These provide mental stimulation as your pet tries to figure out how to get at the treats. Food is a terrific motivator, especially for greyhounds!

I also saw a "soggy doggy" towel, which is a special shammy with large loops to dry your hound off from rain or snow, and they get a "greyt" massage as a bonus.

A cooling mat might be just what your greyhound needs in the summer when the temperatures soar and they need to cool off. Chilly Mat is the name of this product.

Of course, if you have a 'fashionista hound', then there are products for them too, and not just the collars and coats that are sized to fit your greyhound. Isaac Mizrahi's name is on a special collection of dog waste bags and holders. The Leopard Collection is quite fashionable.



And who doesn't want to give their hound a special treat "just because"! Canine cannolis by Pet360 offer a special holiday confection that is safe for your hound to devour.

And finally, "there's an APP for that". Yes, if you have a Smartphone you can track where your hound has down his business, and find its location to clean it up with the Pooh Pee Tracker. The app is available for iPhone and Android users.



But to be honest, you have already given your greyhound the best gift he/she could ever receive -- the gift of a forever home! For a retired racing greyhound, the personal attention and love that they receive from you is what they truly need and deserve.

And let's not forget to mention the gift they give us in return -- unconditional love!

So, no matter what you choose to give your adopted greyhound, remember to give them an extra hug and pat for the joy and happiness they bring into our lives.

~ Louise Evans

DISCLAIMER: GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds does not recommend or endorse these products. Information is provided as a courtesy to our readers. Listing these products is not an endorsement, expressed or implied. Woof!



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

Dear Sophie,

I heard that some people think greyhounds don't get along with other animals. But I don't think that's true, I live with a bunch of greyhounds; and you and I are friends. We even spent a weekend together and we got along just fine, except for that one time you didn't want me to get on the bed with your mom. So what's up with some people?

Your Friend,
Elgin the Deerhound



Dear Elgin,

You're right, people have some pretty silly ideas about greyhounds. You and I had a fun time together travelling all the way to Virginia (you just stay off my mom's bed, that's MY place).

SOPHIE is a lovable 7-year old greyhound who never raced, giving her lots of time to contemplate the meaning of life.

The majority of greyhounds can tolerate sharing our space with just about any other animal, as long as they understand WE are the supreme rulers of the universe. OK, sometimes the family cat gets to make the rules, but only because we let them. Most of the time we really like having a playmate, because let's face it ... greyhounds are practically perfect in every way.

(I just watched Mary Poppins and decided that line applies better to greyhounds than nannies, even magical ones.)

Yours Truly,

Sophie 



Remembering those greyhounds that recently crossed the Bridge.....

- ROXIE, loved by the Covarrubius family
- RAJ, loved by the Utterback family
- SHADOW, loved by the Ballard family
- GIANNA, loved by the Morford family



Thank You 

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

Diane and Paul Passantino
Ferd and Debbie Reetz
Kara Cornett

And TRG is most grateful for donations received from the following:

Pauline Peters
Kristen Curtin
Janet Clouse

Fran Iafolla, in memory of greyhound Clifford Stulen
Vince and Mary Ann Flot, in memory of Clifford Stulen
Goodsearch web search engine
Petco 'Breeds in Need' campaign



Do you love taking pictures of your greyhound(s)?

Consider submitting them for the 2015 Celebrating Greyhounds calendar. The deadline to submit the photos is April 1, 2014.
From their website ~~



The Greyhound Project collects photos for the Celebrating Greyhounds Calendars all year long.

Prints of any size are acceptable. Please do not try to enlarge a smaller print. The original is usually clearer and easier to work with, and the calendar artist will have greater success at producing an enlargement than you will.

Please label the back of each photograph you send. Include your name, address, the names of the dogs, and the name of the adoption group or other source of the dog. If you got your dogs directly from the racing owner or trainer, that's great; they are just as eligible for the calendars as dogs that are placed by an adoption group. The information should be printed on tape or a label before applying it to the back of the photo.

Digital images must have been taken at the highest resolution that your camera will produce in order to be acceptable for printing. Please send us a print of the image as well as a copy of the image on a CD. Be sure to note on the label that the picture is also on CD, and include the file name.

If you have photos that were taken by someone else, please obtain their written permission for us to use the photos. If the photo was taken at a nursing home or therapy program of some sort, please obtain written permission from the program.

The photos for the calendars are selected by a group of greyhound adopters in early April for the following year. The members of the group change from year to year, depending on who is around and wants to come play on the weekend that we gather around a big table and go through the photos. The people looking at the photos generally won't know the people or the dogs in the pictures. They are looking for the images that 'speak' to them.

The selections for the wall calendar will be taken from photos submitted in horizontal, or "landscape" format; the desk calendar requires vertical, or "portrait" format photos. Normally, we receive far more photos in landscape, so we have fewer to choose from in portrait.

We receive hundreds of photos, so please limit submissions to your very best shots.

Send them to:
The Greyhound Project, Inc.
Attn: Calendar photos
P.O. Box 5239
Framingham, MA 01701



Photos that are not used in the calendars are passed along to Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine and may appear in a future issue. Sorry, but we are not able to return photos.

Greyhound Factoid ~ did you know that...

... that a greyhound 'nits'?

No, it's not the needlework knitting; so don't expect a warm scarf from them this holiday. It is a behavioral trait that sometimes people might interpret as fear or aggression.



However, it's actually the exact opposite. When a Greyhound is very happy, and loves their "person" they may nibble at their arm or side (or any available skin) with their front teeth. It's actually an expression of great happiness but it might be misinterpreted as aggression. The nibble might be strong enough to leave a bruise, so, although it's actually meant as a true compliment, it's wise to be careful.

A variant of this is chattering and air snapping. When some greys are happy, they may chatter quite loudly, clicking their lower jaw as though they were cold. You may see a greyhound do this at mealtimes or when their "person" comes home. They literally vibrate with excitement. They are just letting you know that they are so happy to see you!



Air snapping is similar to nitting but instead of nibbling at your skin, they snap at the air. Again, this could easily be misinterpreted as aggression when it's not. The "snapping" is not aimed at you - it's aimed at the air.

Chocolate - Not a Sweet Treat for our Hounds!

No matter how big your greyhound's sweet tooth is or how long those adoring dark eyes stare at you, always resist the temptation to give them any form of chocolate. Canines seem to be drawn to the smell of the chocolate, so be sure to keep any type of chocolate out of their reach, especially if you are baking for the holidays. Stocking stuffers of the edible variety with chocolate are another big hazard.

Ingesting chocolate can cause a whole range of problems including vomiting, diarrhea, low blood pressure and seizures. If enough is ingested, it could be fatal.



Chocolate contains caffeine and the substance theobromine. The amount and type of chocolate ingested is also important, as these affect the severity of the toxicity. The three types of chocolate that you must be aware of are:

1. Milk Chocolate – Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 0.7 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested;
2. Semi-Sweet Chocolate – Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 0.3 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested
3. Baking Chocolate – This type of chocolate has the highest concentration of caffeine and theobromine. As little as two small one-ounce squares of baking chocolate can be toxic to a 20-pound dog (or 0.1 ounce per pound of body weight).

PetMD has a "chocolate toxicity meter" where you can put the amount of chocolate ingested plus your pet's weight to determine the level of toxicity.

http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/digestive/c_multi_chocolate_toxicity#.UqEshY0e4x

BUT REMEMBER, if you suspect your greyhound of eating chocolate, contact your vet immediately to take action.

Reference: PetMD "Chocolate Poisoning in Dogs"

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.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2014 NAGAC!

In a little over 6 months, Three Rivers Greyhounds will play host to the 2014 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference (NAGAC) at Station Square, Pittsburgh.



The Conference will be held June 20-22, 2014 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.)

Why should you attend this event? You will be in the company of adoption groups and fellow greyhound lovers, and you will have access to information from veterinarians on important issues concerning greyhound health and wellness.

Because this event is in Pittsburgh and hosted by Three Rivers Greyhounds, tri-state area adopters will be able to travel to the venue at minimal expense and take full advantage of all the conference has to offer.

A tentative schedule has been set with the GPA National meeting on Friday morning, followed by seminars, a wine tasting on Friday evening, and a Saturday lecture by veterinarian Dr. Guillermo Couto, internationally recognized expert in the fields of veterinary oncology, hematology, and Greyhound medicine. The final schedule will be posted on the TRG website closer to event. Additional speakers and activities are planned. There will be merchandise vendors with 'everything greyhound' available.

A banquet will be held Saturday evening on The Gateway Clipper riverboat fleet with a 3-hour dinner/dance cruise while sightseeing on the beautiful Three Rivers in Pittsburgh! This is a \$70 value being offered for only \$35.

REGISTER NOW! After April 15, the fee increases. Even if you are only able to attend for part of the conference, your registration fee is well worth its cost.

TO REGISTER, complete the following information and return with payment to the address listed below.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Registration

- _____ Conference.....\$50 (includes wine tasting event + continental breakfast each day)
- _____ Late Registration (After 4/15/2014).....\$75
- _____ Banquet and River Cruise.....\$35 (only available for advance sales)

2014 North American Greyhound Conference T-shirts

Shirts are available in both short sleeve and long sleeve in Sport Gray via pre-order and will feature the logo shown above. A limited number of shirts will be available at the conference. Order yours now to guarantee receiving one! Please indicate number of each size you are ordering.

Short sleeve Tees - \$15, 2XL and up \$17

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Long Sleeve Tees - \$20, 2XL and up \$22

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

You can print out this form and mail with your payment to: 2014 NAGAC, P.O.Box 147, Greensburg, PA 15601
You can also register through the TRG website and pay via PayPal.

We encourage you to take advantage of this incredible opportunity. Hope to see you there!