

News and Roos

From

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.



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FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING

It's hard to believe Three Rivers Greyhounds is completing its 5th year since becoming an official sub-chapter of Greyhound Pets of America in 2009. It seems like only yesterday several of us were sitting around the table trying to figure out how to get this thing off the ground.



The day our website went live was so exciting! I remember the pride I felt when our dreams started to come true. We were official! And my very next thought was, "Okay, now what?" How will people find out about us? When will we get our first application? I admit to having more than a few moments of panic before that first application finally arrived. But it did, and then another adoption, and then another.

And now, five years have passed and we've placed over 175 greyhounds into loving homes. We've come a long way since those early days, but there is still so much more to do. For every greyhound we place, there are 5 more waiting in the wings. Sometimes that thought is overwhelming, but we just have to concentrate on the joy of saving the ones we can.

We have accomplished much in our five short years. It's very gratifying and enlightening to compare that first year to the present. For example, in our first year, we received approximately \$1500 from grants and fundraising activities. Individual donations brought us another \$900.

Compare that to 2013 -- \$10,000 in fundraisers, \$11,000 received in grants! So far in 2014 our totals are about \$7,000 in grants, \$2500 in fundraisers, and \$1300 from individual donations!

But it's not about making money. TRG has sizeable expenses that most people don't think about. Veterinary care alone has increased year after year, from \$2000 in 2009 to \$16,000 in 2013. Without the hard work of our incredible volunteers and the support of our greyhound family, I don't know where we'd be.

So as we close out our fifth year and look to the future, we would all like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all; we are eternally grateful for your support.

We look forward to many more years of finding forever homes for these dogs we love so much. Keep spreading the word!

~ Ruth Scheller, TRG President

Inside this issue ~~

Crates, Gates and Greys... Oh My p.2
Greyt Wisdom p.3
Rainbow Bridge p.3
Thank you to our Donors p.3
Upcoming Events p.4

We're here 24/7 p.5
Bowling Recap p.5
A Ticket Home p.6
Greyhound Health Initiative p.7
Greyhound Factoid p.8
Greyhounds on Stage p.8

Crates, Gates and Greyhounds.....Oh My!

One of the most important purchases a new adopter of a greyhound makes is the purchase of a dog crate and baby gates.

Often times, the new adopter or those inquiring about adoption ask “Isn’t that cruel to keep a greyhound in a crate?”

The answer for many reasons is “No”. Understanding the mindset of a greyhound who has recently come off the track involves realizing that the hounds are accustomed to a certain life and routine, and when they come into your home, it can be a strange, anxious and somewhat frightening experience for them.



Greyhounds are used to routine. At the track kennel, there are scheduled times for feeding, turnout times for bathroom duties, and times for racing/training. The remainder of the day a greyhound is almost always in its kennel crate. In fact, this is where the hounds are fed.

Transitioning to home life as a pet with the use of a crate is a simple way to allow your hound to get used to his new environment, and to also have the security of a safe place to be when you are gone. (When hounds are in their crates at the track kennel, humans are not usually there.) The hound’s security is his crate where he is fed, where he sleeps, where he may have a special toy or stuffie as company.

If a greyhound is given free access to your home immediately, it is something he has never dealt with. There are many ‘foreign’ objects that a greyhound has never seen. Your hound does not understand what is chewable and what is not. If you leave them for an extended period, they may become bored or curious; without training them to understand what is permitted, you might come home to a chewed book or TV remote, or a damaged sofa cushion or end table.

Start your greyhound off with short times in the crate even when you are home, so they will not view the crate as punishment. If you leave the crate door open when you are home, hounds will sometimes go in them to sleep or to remove themselves from family activity when they are tired.

If you work outside the home, you may want your greyhound in his crate while you are at work. Get your hound used to the crate for increasing lengths of time, so it becomes a routine. Your hound may prefer to be fed in his crate since that is ‘his space’. If your hound is in his crate most of the day, train him to sleep outside of the crate at night in a spot that you choose. This way your hound is not confined to his crate for most of the day. Greyhounds want to be part of your pack.

New greyhound adopters may become complacent about using the crate if your new family member seems on his best behavior all the time. Initially, try not to be fooled and continue to use the crate when away from home, and gradually build up the time you can trust your hound to be on his own. By doing this you will build a relationship of trust and love with your hound.

“But my greyhound does not want to be in his crate.” Greyhounds may put on the brakes and you are literally pushing 75 pounds of stubbornness into the crate. Be firm and try offering a special treat or toy that your hound receives only when going into the crate.



Baby gates used within your home can also help define safe spaces for your greyhound so they don’t get into trouble when you are busy with other household activities. Gates provide a safe route for your felines to separate themselves from a hound when cats need their own space. And baby gates allow young children to play, with greyhounds watching at a distance.

Crates and gates should not be seen as punishment, but as part of an established routine. Setting boundaries that are clear to your hound will make for a more relaxed and happy relationship between you and your new family member.

Greyt Wisdom



by Dan Durso

Greyt Wisdom

When I introduced TRG's Kyle Catanzarite at the 2014 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference, I referred to her as the seed of our organization. I believe this to be true, and a mighty tree has grown from that seed.

The roots (our board members) have dug in and provided the strength needed to support the branches. Those branches (our volunteers) work so hard to help produce the leaves. The leaves (adoptions) are what make this tree so beautiful!

As one branch of our tree, I want to say THANK YOU to everyone that helped make the conference a success! Your dedication was noticed by many people, and TRG has been put on the greyhound adoption map.

A tree grows in Pittsburgh!

~ Dan Durso

Running at the Rainbow Bridge....

We remember the following hounds that have recently crossed the bridge:



Thunder, loved by the Hirth Family
Lily, loved by Sue and Bill Yanakos
Shadow, loved by Sue Ballard

Thank you to the following for their generous donations to Three Rivers Greyhounds~

In Memory of Bob Fahringer

Vince & Maryann Flot
Fran Iafolla
Bev Stulen
Phipps Conservatory
Phipps Conservatory Employees
Craig and Sharon Robinson

Michelle Grygo
Jonathon Crayton
Lisa & Mark Paulson

In Memory of Marlene Trout

Stephen Cenedella, MD
Mary Peterson
David Roth



~~~~~  
*Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars!*

*DOGTOBER FEST*

DogtoberFest will be held Saturday, October 1 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., "Under the Bridge" @ The Waterfront, Homestead, PA. This is a new location for the event.

Three Rivers Greyhounds has been a participant in the event for several years. We showcase our greyhounds, answer questions about the breed and adoption, and have merchandise available for purchase.

TRG needs your help in staffing the booth. Shifts are generally 2 hours long, allowing you to enjoy the rest of the 'FEST'.

As you can see by the poster to the left, there are many activities planned. Bring your greyhound and have a greyt time while spreading our adoption message!

The event is open to the public, with no admission either. Email Susy Durso to volunteer at [susy@gpatrg.org](mailto:susy@gpatrg.org).



*Pasta Buffet ~~ Sunday, November 16*

**Mama Mia!** Our yearly Pasta Buffet is fast approaching so set aside the date for being part of a greyt time, enjoying a tasty buffet and everything greyhound.

Here are the specifics:

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m. at the Lakeview Restaurant on Rt. 30 in Greensburg.

Ticket cost is \$25 per person, includes pasta buffet; tickets are available now! We will have both a Chinese auction and a silent auction full of GREYT items.

Reservation Deadline is **November 6<sup>th</sup>**. Proceeds from the event will be used for adoption and veterinary expenses.

To reserve your ticket, contact Dan at 724-454-5035 or send emails to [susy@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org](mailto:susy@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org)





## *Having a problem with your hound?*

Remember, Three Rivers Greyhounds officers and directors are always here to help you with anything and everything.

It doesn't matter if you adopted yesterday or three years ago; if you're having an issue please get in touch with any board member. We are here to support you for the long haul.

Don't think any question is silly or stupid, and don't ever worry that we will think any less of you for not knowing how to handle something.

Remember, we have many, many years of experience, and between us we've run into just about everything. We are always just a phone call or an email away. If something has you stumped please don't be afraid to ask for help.

Better to reach out for assistance than let things reach the breaking point. Let us help you and your greyhound.



## *Bowling for Greyhounds - A Greyt Event*

A fantastic time was had by the fifty+ people that visited Main Street Bowling in Greensburg on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and bowled their greyhound hearts out. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> year for this event, coordinated by Susy and Dan Durso.

Everyone had a greyt time bowling; there were a few doubles but no 'turkeys' (3 strikes in a row). Anyone who scored a strike with the red pin as the #1 pin got to spin a wheel to win prizes from the Main Street owner.

A 50/50 raffle, and both Chinese and silent auctions were part of the event. A net profit of \$1129 was realized from this event. Way to go supporters of greyhound adoption!

Thank you to all who participated. Special thanks to sponsorships from the following: Lou's Barber Shop and TanZar Kennels.

See you next year at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowling for Greyhounds!



GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds received the following from fellow chapter GPA/Daytona. The request for donations addresses the need to get greyhounds from Florida to states where there are adopters waiting. If you want to participate, please read the flyer and follow their directions for making a donation. Thank you.



Every retired racing greyhound wants

## **A TICKET HOME**

But each ticket costs \$75. The cost of a long distance haul from racetrack to waiting adoption groups in nonracing states has risen to \$2,400. A full “haul” ships 32 dogs, or \$75 per greyhound.

Here is how your tax deductible donation would work:

**A TICKET HOME:** \$75 donation guarantees one ticket home for a greyhound

**SEND A LITTER:** \$375 donation sends home five greyhounds

**FILL THE WHOLE TRAILER:** \$2,400 donation sends a trailer of 32 greyhounds home!

There IS a home out there for every retired racer ... if someone can finance their ticket home. Every \$75 sends another former racing greyhound home, somewhere, to the home he truly deserves.

Make checks payable to: Greyhound Pets Daytona Beach  
960 S. Williamson Blvd  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Let them know it is **A TICKET HOME**. Or donate online at [www.greyhoundpetsdaytona.org](http://www.greyhoundpetsdaytona.org), and designate **A TICKET HOME**. *The ticket's destination will be at the sole discretion of GPA Daytona, according to the need. They decide, not the donor.*



### **Why GPA Daytona?**

By long standing tradition, GPA Daytona pays 100% of the cost. As a greyhound adoption group, they own the equipment, pay fuel charges, upkeep and maintenance, registration, insurance, hire drivers, etc. This is on top of their regular expenses like dog food, vet bills, etc. to house the dogs until they each get their ticket home. The racetrack generously provides GPA Daytona a kennel to house 110 dogs waiting for adoption. (There is always a waiting list of 150 more retired greyhounds wanting into this adoption kennel.) The Daytona racetrack is also setting an industry standard by paying for the majority of the broken legs, and pays the kennel staff that work in the adoption kennel. So, it is a good working relationship. GPA Daytona pays the total cost of each greyhound's ticket home. Adoption groups that receive the dogs are only charged basic pre-adoption vetting, never transportation for the dogs. The full Ticket Home has always been paid by GPA Daytona. This financial burden now puts the long distance hauls at risk. Yet if the dogs can be shipped to states that do not have race tracks, there are many potential adopters waiting for a new greyhound.

## What is The Greyhound Health Initiative?

We all know that our greyhounds are pretty special and unique.

And most of us (and our veterinarians) know that greyhounds are sensitive to anesthesia. We are also aware that like most long-boned canines, osteosarcoma is concern for our furry kids.

BUT did you know that an analysis of a greyhound's blood chemistry produces different values and norms compared to those "regular" canines.

Launched in April 2014, The Greyhound Health Initiative is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of sight hounds through the education of both sight hound parents and their veterinary healthcare providers about their unique medical conditions.

President of the organization is Guillermo Couto, D.V.M., who formerly oversaw the Greyhound Wellness Program at Ohio State. Dr. Couto spoke at TRG's North American Greyhound Adoption Conference in June and provided information on the uniqueness of greyhounds and galgos (Spanish Greyhounds) in their physiology.

*The following is taken from their website.....*

"The group gives lectures, presentations and in-service workshops throughout North America and Europe. They also offer medical consultations to veterinarians and owners either in person, over the phone or online.

The Greyhound Health Initiative continues to work with sight hound adoption groups by providing direct veterinary care and funds and will continue research into cancer and other medical issues afflicting greyhounds.

Through the generous support of volunteers and donors they will continue to expand their services, take on more research projects and improve the health of sight hounds everywhere! "

~ ~ ~

At the conference, Three Rivers Greyhounds was pleased to present The Greyhound Health Initiative with a \$1,000 donation for their mission to improve the health of Sighthounds.

Below is a quick reference furnished by the Greyhound Health Initiative. Keep it with you when your greyhound is at the vet's.



The Greyhound Health Initiative logo

**Greyhounds are not "regular" dogs.**

Normal lab results in Greyhounds are not the same as other breeds.

| Normal            |  | Greyhounds | Other Breeds |
|-------------------|--|------------|--------------|
| HCT/PCV           |  | 50% - 70%  | 42% - 62%    |
| WBC               |  | 3.5-6.9    | 5.8-20.3     |
| Platelets         |  | 110-205    | 173-497      |
| Total Protein     |  | 4.8-6.3    | 5.1-7.1      |
| Globulin          |  | 1.7-3.0    | 2.2-3.9      |
| Creatinine        |  | 1.0-1.7    | 0.6-1.6      |
| Total T4 (nMol/L) |  | 8-20       | 20-33        |

*A Greyhound with HCT/PCV <50% is anemic!*

*If you think your Greyhound is hypothyroid, please have your vet check the TSH!*

[www.greyhoundhealthinitiative.org](http://www.greyhoundhealthinitiative.org)

## *Greyhound Factoid - Did you know . . . .*

*...that there was greyhound saint?*



He was Saint Guinefort so named for a thirteenth century hound named Gelert.

The story is that a nobleman left his greyhound in the nursery with his infant son. When the man returned, the cradle was overturned and the child was missing. When the dog approached the nobleman, he had blood all over his mouth. The nobleman drew his sword and killed Guinefort thinking that the dog had attacked the infant.

The child was later found unharmed, and alongside the overturned cradle was the body of a deadly poisonous snake, which Guinefort had killed to protect the child. The nobleman regretted his act took the dog's body and buried it in a well.

Some historians believe that Guinefort the dog saint was a cover for the use of a pagan healing well. In the mid-1200's, the Catholic church decreed that the anyone going to the site of the former shrine would have their possessions seized and sold.

### *Greyhounds On Stage!*

Rocco Ricky and Dolph-e, adopted greyhounds of Bill and Jan Pack, took part in Pittsburgh Opera's October 2013 staging of Verdi's "Aida" at the Benedum Center, Pittsburgh.

Advertised as 'The Grandest of All Grand Operas', the greyhounds (and Bill) were part of the Triumphal March pagentry celebrating Egypt's victory over the Ethiopians and also included horses, a hawk, and a snake, along with other greyhounds.



How fitting that greyhounds with their noble stature and history were included in this production! Congrats to Bill, Rocco Ricky and Dolph-e! Is Hollywood in your future?

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2014 will be fully tax deductible and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds.

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