

News and Roos

From

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

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Issue #4



REUNION WRAPUP



On Sunday, April 17, 2011, GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc. held its inaugural Rock 'N Roos Reunion! Over 50 greyhound lovers and 25 greyhounds came together to socialize, eat good food, give grey kisses, roo, and bid on a lot of auction items!

There were collars, collars and MORE collars! Treats, treats and MORE treats! Apparel, apparel and MORE apparel! THE GREYT GOURMET cookbook made its debut. Canine massage and nail trimming services were available.

All of our current adoptable hounds even made an appearance!

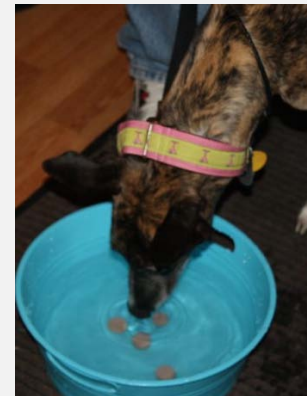
A GREYT big ROOS to YOU for helping us make our first annual Rock N Roos Reunion a success! Aside from the wonderful silent auction items, attendees enjoyed the greyhound games. Hounds participated in "My Dog Will Eat That Contest", "Bobbing for Treats", and everyone's favorite, our first ever "Roo-Off"!

Our event raised over **\$1700** to help us help the hounds, and also found forever homes for two of the adoptables!! Both Mya and Georgia went home to loving families.

Rock 'N Roos Reunion 2011 was a HUGE success!! We couldn't have done it without you! Plans are already under way for next year's event!

Again, thanks to all who helped organize and carry out this event and thanks to the businesses and individuals who donated items to our Fundraiser!

See page 4 of the newsletter to see all who made donations to the Reunion. Please patronize our supporters!



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GPA/Three Rivers
Greyhounds, Inc.

Ruth Scheller - President
Louise Evans - Vice President
Susy Durso - Secy/Treasurer
Sue Yanakos, Kyle Catanzarite -
Directors

Play or Prey? Understanding Prey Drive in Greyhounds

By Kyle Catanzarite



No description of a greyhound's temperament is complete without stating one simple fact. *The instinct to chase is present in all greyhounds.*

Historians estimate that greyhounds (or greyhound-like dogs) have lived with humans for roughly 8,000 years! These ancient dogs originated in the Middle East where the landscape was flat and open. Over time, and in response to their environment, they evolved into lightning speed runners with an eyesight range of up to ½ mile!

Early hunters utilized this combination of speed and extraordinary vision to their advantage in guaranteeing a constant food supply. Among greyhound prey were rabbits, small rodents, antelopes and gazelles. They worked with their human hunting partners and perfected the ability to chase, catch and kill.

Greyhounds arrived in the New World with Christopher Columbus, but it wasn't until the mid-1800's with the British immigrants moving west that Greyhounds were used in this country for hunting jackrabbits that were destroying crops in the Midwest. Once again, Greyhounds proved to be incredibly efficient hunters because of their chase instinct, speed and eyesight.

Were it not for the introduction of Greyhound racing in this country in 1919, it may well be that Greyhounds would still be largely bred and used for hunting in the Midwestern part of the country. But racing has changed the landscape for greyhounds on many levels and over the past nearly 40 years has made it possible for retired racers to transition from racetracks to homes as adopted pets.

At this point, you may be asking yourself, based on what you now know about a greyhound's instincts and history as a hunter, how any greyhound could live in harmony with any small animal? Here's how it works!

There is a misconception, as the result of misinformation, that since all greyhounds come with a chase instinct reinforced by racing, all greyhounds are deadly predators! In fact, the misconception was so prevalent in Ireland that for many years Greyhounds were considered dangerous animals and not permitted to be in public places without wearing a muzzle.

Unfortunately, this thinking has also influenced greyhound adoption in this country to some degree and many greyhounds with virtually no prey drive are overlooked as wonderful canine companions for cats, small dogs and other small animals.

It is important to understand that the chase instinct and prey drive do not necessarily go hand in hand. It is safe to say that the majority of the greyhound population would love nothing more than to chase and play, but not ALL greyhounds will view their playmate as prey! As a matter of fact, the majority of greyhounds are able to co-exist in harmony with other small animals living in a home.

An important part of what all adoption groups do is to screen the behaviors of greyhounds before they are adopted. This includes introducing a muzzled greyhound to a cat to observe the interactions between the two. A greyhound with a very intense prey drive will react immediately by exhibiting a number of telling behaviors including pricked ears, quivering, whining, freezing in place and staring intently. These indicators of prey drive are easy to identify and are enough to make the determination that the prey drive is too strong to expect the greyhound to live with any small animals.

During testing, the **majority** of greyhounds show a total lack of interest in a cat. They refuse to make eye contact, will turn away from the cat, tuck their tail or pull away. These reactions are excellent indicators of how the Greyhound will respond in a home to small animals. (con't pg. 3)

(con't from pg.3) It is not uncommon for new adopters to misconstrue interest like sniffing or an interest in playing with prey drive and aggression. While it is important to use a muzzle for situations where you may have concerns about the interaction between the Greyhound and other small animals in your home, it is absolutely necessary to understand that initiating play is not prey drive. Rather than making a hasty decision about your Greyhound's intentions in your home, seek the advice of the experienced members of the adoption group who have a wealth of knowledge about and experience with what constitutes play behavior versus prey behavior!

Education is the key to success in any adoption. The more knowledge you acquire about Greyhounds in general and behaviors specifically, the more likely it is that you and your Greyhound will enjoy a long-lasting and loving relationship.

Is it play drive or prey drive? Get the facts before a greyhound races into your life!



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This time of year finds us enjoying the outdoors. With this in mind, consider the potential dangers that may lurk in your yard.

A freshly fertilized lawn can irritate your hound's paws, and can be fatal if ingested. Outdoor grills can also pose a problem. Besides the obvious risk of burns when in use, the smell of burgers and hotdogs can linger, and act as a magnet to your hound's nose. They will stop at nothing to get to any grease or drippings that may fall into your grill tray. Keep it clean!

During this time of year, fleas and ticks become active. Safeguard your grey with one of the prevention products available. If you plant flowers in an area that your hound has access to, remember that flowers attract bees. Derry, one of our greys, found out the hard way that catching bees with his mouth isn't a good idea. He was afraid to go out for almost 2 weeks after that! Also, realize some plants are poisonous and may attract your hound.

Enjoy the outdoors with your hound, but safeguard them!

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### Roo's Future

At age four, and now retired, Roo's racing career seems a distant memory. With many years in front of him, he ponders his uncertain future. Will he be one of the fortunate ones? Will he find a family to love?

As tracks begin to close, Roo's chances of finding a forever home decreases due to an overwhelming number of greys being removed from the racing circuit.

Roo has a heart full of love and kisses to give, and companionship to share. For more information about Roo, contact any of our volunteers.

\*\*Roo is a fictitious retired racing greyhound. Although Roo himself does not actually exist, thousands of Roos face an uncertain future. Open your heart and home. Make a difference!

~Dan Durso



*Roos & Thank You to the following businesses and Individuals  
who donated to our Rock 'N Roos Reunion !!*

Nutro  
Buds Suds  
The Unruly Hound  
Carnegie Science Center  
Gals on the Green  
Fun Fore All  
GreytWear  
Trendy Hounds  
Conley's Resort  
Tractor Supply Co.  
Frito Lay  
2 Hounds Design  
Elaine Pensenstadler  
Pam & Melissa Morford  
Jim Gall

Seven Springs Resort  
Wiggles, Wags, & Whiskers  
TanZar Kennels  
Kong Company  
Voyagers K9 Apparel  
Greyhounds of Distinction  
Nails by Sally  
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
Quaker Steak and Lube  
LMS Greenhouse & Nursery  
Tender Touch Veterinary Hospital  
Chestnut Ridge Golf Course  
Dan & Susy Durso

PETCO  
Fast Jack  
Advantix  
Mad Mex Restaurant  
Wildwood Highlands  
Mary Kay Cosmetics  
Fast Jack  
Houndstown  
Northway Car Wash  
No Nude Hounds  
Johnny's Hot Dogs  
Merial  
Ruth Scheller  
Lisa Paulson

*Current TRG Retired Racers Looking for Their Forever Home*

De-De



LILY



RUMKIN



PATCHES



[Click Here](#) to visit our website and learn more about these beautiful hounds.

*Remembering Those Hounds that have recently  
crossed the Bridge...*

*Sarah Catanzarite  
Bijan Yanakos  
Derry Durso*



*A special thank you to those  
who have made donations to  
TRG since the last newsletter:*

Bernie Antol  
PETCO Foundation  
Verizon





Photo Courtesy Melissa Morford

## Greyhounds In Gettysburg 2011

~ Ruth Scheller

This was my first time attending Greyhounds In Gettysburg (GIG) and the first question that comes to mind is – why did I wait so long???

Can you imagine a better way to spend a weekend than schmoozing with 800 greyhounds? OK, maybe an all-expense paid trip to Belize with unlimited cash flow tops Gettysburg, but I'm talking reality here!

This year's registered attendees totaled more than 700 adults, 50+ children and nearly 800 greyhounds. And that's not to mention the many other breeds in attendance with their humans – Borzoi, Italian Greyhounds, Whippets, and other little furry things too numerous to mention. A dog lover's paradise to be sure!

What is there to do at GIG? You name it! **Triangle Greyhound Society**, the group that organizes GIG every year, does an incredible job making sure there is something for everyone to enjoy. 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 have the opportunity, I highly recommend making the trip next year. I would offer this one bit of advice though if your hounds have never traveled overnight before – take them for a *really* long walk the first day or you may find yourself up *all night long* with a nervous hound. I speak from experience!

The dates for GIG 2012 are April 27 – 29.

The official website is [www.greyhoundsingettysburg.com](http://www.greyhoundsingettysburg.com). It's probably a good idea to start looking for a room sometime in January – the hotels fill up quickly. So mark your calendar, and we'll see you there!

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6th ANNUAL BOWLING FOR GREYHOUNDS!!

Be part of the fun as we bowl and raise money to help the greyhounds.

WHEN: SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2011
2 p.m.

WHERE: Main Street Bowling Center
Greensburg, PA



Fee is \$20 and includes 3 games of bowling, shoe rental and a T-shirt. Also, door prizes and a Chinese auction all to benefit Three Rivers Greyhounds adoption.

To download registration form, [Click Here](#) to visit our events page and locate Bowling for Greyhounds event.

DEADLINE to register is July 20, 2011.

Fore! The Hounds Golf Outing



When: Sunday July 31, 10:00am

Where: Lakevue North Golf Course,
Butler PA

Cost: \$75 per golfer, includes 18-holes of golf, cart, buffet dinner, door prizes

All proceeds benefit greyhound adoption.

Registration deadline is June 30.

For more information, please email us at info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org



9 Questions With

Ruth Scheller, President, GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

1. How/where did you meet your first greyhound?

Like so many people, I first met greyhounds at a meet & greet. I had never seen one in person before and I was just captivated by their beauty and elegance.

2. How many greyhounds do you share your home with?

Only four!

3. Funniest greyhound moment?

That would have to be the evening Sophie stuck her whole head in a bag of cheese curls and pranced back to her bed with one in her mouth like a cigar, so proud of herself. She was certain I hadn't seen a thing. Either that or the first time she drank my coffee – just started lapping it up, looking me right in the eye. Hmm, I'm sensing a theme here with Sophie!

4. Most unusual greyhound trait?

That would be my first greyhound Jasmine – she had some very definite ideas about home décor. In all the years I had that dog, I could not keep a throw rug at the front door. In Jasmine's world it simply didn't belong there, she would always move it into the living room or into the bedroom. I would put it back at the front door, and she would move it again. I think we clashed over that for a full year before I finally gave up!

5. Most memorable greyhound moment?

There are so many, but one that sticks out for me is the day Woody met Arlo. Woody is my shy boy, afraid of his own shadow. I was in the market for another hound, and took Woody and Jasmine over to TanZar for an introduction to a couple of adoptables. True to her supreme diva nature, Jasmine didn't show the slightest bit of interest in either dog we met. But Woody and Arlo seemed to take to each other from the start, and just went off walking together. Woody made the decision for me.

6. Why should someone adopt a greyhound?

Aside from the obvious answer of saving a life, the love and affection you get from a greyhound is sometimes hard to fathom. When you stop to think about the life they've led before being adopted, it's truly amazing how well they adapt to home life, and how much devotion they show their humans. It really makes you think the Legend of The Forever Home is more than just a cute story!



7. One word that would best describe your greyhound?

I'm trying to think of one word that would describe all my hounds collectively; I guess I'd have to say hilarious. I find myself laughing out loud several times a day at the things they do.

8. Why choose to dedicate yourself to greyhound adoption?

This is by far the most rewarding thing I've ever done in my life. My dogs fill me with so much joy; and when I can help someone else realize that same happiness, the feeling is indescribable.

9. If someone came to you today and asked if they could do one thing to make a difference in a greyhound's life, what would you say to them?

I would say, look past the outward appearance; forget about male vs. female, forget about brindle vs. fawn, forget about younger vs. older. Look instead into those incredible eyes, and see the beautiful soul within. Let those eyes speak to you, and open your heart and home to the dog that needs you the most.

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**Newsletter Submissions** – The goal of **News and Roos** is to inform and help educate readers about greyhound adoption and our chapter's activities. Three Rivers Greyhounds welcomes reader submissions, articles, helpful hints, photos, humorous items, etc. Our goal is to publish quarterly. Next deadline to submit is August 1. Please email submissions to [info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org](mailto:info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org). Photos submitted must have subject's written permission to publish them when submitted. Please limit personal articles to one page.

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2011 will be fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds!