



News & Roos

from
GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 2010

ISSUE #1

CELEBRATING ONE GREYT YEAR!

September marks GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds' one-year anniversary! What began with a small dedicated group of volunteers has become a winning team in greyhound adoption in the tri-state region.



In the past year Three Rivers Greyhounds has accomplished many things including:

- * Official chapter status with Greyhound Pets of America
- * Incorporation of Three Rivers Greyhounds
- * Receipt of a grant from the PETCO Foundation
- * Debut appearances at JoBeth Booksellers on Pittsburgh's South Side, Quaker Steak and Lube Bike Nights in Cranberry, The Pittsburgh Zoo "Wild about Cats and Dogs" event, and a Washington Wild Things Ball Park meet n' greet.

And most importantly, finding forever homes for 35+ Greyhounds. Three Rivers Greyhounds has placed hounds in three states - Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. Our adoptables have come from Wheeling GPA, Riffin Racing Inc., and GPA/Central Florida Chapter.

In order to continue to be successful in TRG's mission to find retired racers their forever homes, we need to expand our network of active volunteers. Even a minimal donation of 2-4 hours of your time once a month will make a world of difference for a greyhound waiting to find its forever home.

We think that you will agree that "The Hounds are Neat Where the Three Rivers Meet!"

RUTH SCHELLER-PRESIDENT

SUSY DURSO-SECRETARY/TREASURER

LOUISE EVANS -VICE PRESIDENT

DIRECTORS-SUE YANAKOS, KYLE CATANZARITE

Inside this newsletter:

- Let's talk about Adoption Fees p.2
- Greyt Wisdom by Dan Durso p.3
- Rainbow Bridge p. 3
- Greyhounds & Children p.4
- Cat-testing a Greyhound - a unique perspective p.5
- Donations p. 6
- "Choose a Greyhound" Course p.6
- Pennies for Pups p.6
- Upcoming Events / Volunteer Opportunities p.6
- Fundraising Events p.7
- Have an idea? p.7



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many "paws" and hands needed to help!



Three Rivers Greyhounds hosts monthly meet and greets at area PETCO stores. Bring your hound and spend some time educating the public on what wonderful family pets retired racing greyhounds make. We currently are at the following area PETCO's: Butler, Cranberry Township, Greensburg, and Monroeville. Check our website for exact dates and times.

There are 3 special events coming up that require additional volunteers: DogtoberFest, GreenTree Library program, & Zelienople-Harmony Fall Festival Days. Please check out [page 6](#) & volunteer to help!



LET'S TALK ABOUT ADOPTION FEES

How much does it cost to adopt a greyhound? This is the question I answer frequently when people encounter the silky softness of a greyhound's coat for the first time.

It is an important question, because affordability is an important consideration in the decision to adopt a greyhound. There are a number of cost factors that influence the adoption fee, including:

Wellness Exam and Spay or Neuter – Every greyhound receives a complete physical exam prior to the spay or neuter surgery.

Vaccinations – Every greyhound receives vaccinations for rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and parvovirus.

Dental Exam, Cleaning and Extractions – Every greyhound receives a dental exam and cleaning as needed. Occasionally, extractions will be required for teeth that are broken or gums that may be infected.

Parasite Treatment – Every greyhound receives oral and topical treatment for parasites, including fleas, ticks and worms.

Microchip Program – Every greyhound is now microchipped and registered to guarantee identification if lost and found.

Grooming – Every greyhound receives a complete grooming, including a bath, brushing and toenail trimming when it enters the adoption program. When the greyhound is adopted, and before it moves to its forever home, it is bathed again.

Boarding – Every greyhound is boarded free of charge at a kennel which donates the space and food to subsidize boarding fees and lower the adoption fee.

Equipment – Every greyhound receives a complimentary martingale collar and leash to ensure its safety.

Contingencies – In addition to the fixed costs itemized above, there can be additional costs that accumulate and require extenuating medical treatment resulting from a racetrack injury.

The total cost of all of the services provided is barely covered by the adoption fee and in some cases, medical costs will exceed the adoption fee.

Fundraising, which is an essential and ongoing necessity for every greyhound adoption group, helps to ensure that every greyhound is healthy when it is adopted. But even fundraising goes only so far in meeting the financial demands of finding homes for greyhounds.

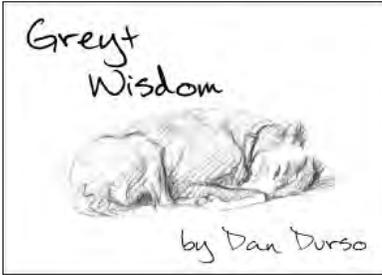


Donations provide another important source of financial aid to ensure that every greyhound needing a home is able to find a home.

While adoption fees will vary among the greyhound adoption community, the care of the greyhounds is consistent and compassionate.

What other investment will guarantee a dividend of unconditional love and companionship? There's a special greyhound waiting to race into your heart and home!

~ by Kyle Catanzarite



Imagine having endless love to give, yet no one to give it to. Imagine never having a best friend. Think about working hard to merely survive, then having nothing when you retire. Think of your existence as being nothing more than a number, and at some point determined to be of no value. If any of the above has not struck at least one nerve in your body, you need not read on.

It is my opinion that the above defines an unadopted retired racing greyhound. I've been educated about greyhounds and their journey from birth to life's end.

I've held puppies, seen the training methods and watched races. It was important to me to gain this knowledge to fully understand the task at hand: finding forever homes.

A combination of this knowledge, and the absolute joy of adopting a greyhound, has deepened my conviction. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to completely take in our website, then give us a call. If for any reason, a greyhound is not right for you, you can still help. We will never turn down a dedicated volunteer, or donation of any size. Merely spreading the word to raise awareness can lead to an adoption. Enrich your life. Save a greyhound.

~~~~~

Greyhounds, like we humans, can display selective memory. We experience this in our home regularly, both with the kids and with the hounds.

One example of this occurs with us when the Schwan's food delivery truck arrives at our house. You see, the delivery man comes to our door twice each month. Knowing we have seven greys, he comes equipped with milk bones for each of them. Our greys can hear, and identify, the sound of that truck as it's coming down the street. They immediately go into a 'treat time frenzy' before he even gets the truck parked! This occurs once every two weeks, yet they are reminded DAILY not to dig holes in our yard. You think they could remember this rule, but they don't.

Another example of selective memory is their name. If I say "Lina (my 7 year old white and brindle female), do you want to go out?" she will immediately race to the door. Yet, if I say "Lina, quit pulling the stuffing out of your bed" she will ignore me as if she has forgotten her name.

Speaking of forgetting, we also share the aging process with our hounds. For example, we adopted our first greyhound, Derry, in 2004. Since then, he and I have both gained weight, turned gray, slowed down, and have gotten grouchier. But, at least we still remember our names!

~ Dan Durso

### The Rainbow Bridge

Remembering those special greyhounds who have crossed the bridge:

Lucky Kenny  
Johnny Cash Walz  
Max Yanakos

Skye Smocer  
Douglas Smocer  
Sparkle Yanakos  
Cole Catanzarite

Babe Blue Pcsolyar  
Matthew Pcsolyar  
Cooper Stimmel



Greyhounds have the ability to inspire, console, amuse and mystify, and above all, to give the rarest commodity, unconditional love. Should you be so lucky as to share your home and heart with one, you will never regret it.....

"Author unknown"

## FAMILY LIFE — A JOURNEY WITH KIDS & GREYHOUNDS

What has my experience taught me about greyhound ownership as a whole? The theory that greyhounds are “potato chip” dogs should not be taken lightly. Greyhounds are great “family” pets. AND, it’s fun to see people’s reactions when you tell them you have four dogs, two cats and a fish!

A long time ago, I went into a Petco in Virginia and met my first greyhounds. They were beautiful noble creatures and I knew from that moment that this was the dog for me. I bought the books, trolled the adoption websites and bided my time. I can’t say I had any real idea of what living with greyhound was, but I was determined.

Years later, I met and married my husband. Even though he thought I was a little obsessed and may not have been entirely joking when he suggested the online adoption video contained subliminal messages, he gave in to the bug, after meeting his first greyhound, at a meet and greet.

Soon after, we closed on our house and our first greyhound adoption. Stitch (Iruska Ole Mike) instantly bonded with our Beagle mix, Candy, never looked twice at the cats and loved everyone. Stitch taught me that greyhounds can be silly and fun. To this day, Stitch is the dog that everyone loves regardless of how they feel about greyhounds. He is the perfect first greyhound and, as I was once told, “a real dog”.

We adopted our second greyhound, Lilo (Iruska Memory) about a year and a half later. Lilo was fearful of humans. It took months for her to willingly stay in the same room as us and then a few more before she would lie beside us. She still doesn’t much like strangers, but one day she morphed into this affectionate kissy dog, who snaps at the air and wiggles her bum if you scratch her back just right. Her most recent achievement is allowing repeat visitors to our home to pet her. I love all my dogs, but I think I appreciate Lilo’s love the most because I know how hard it was for her to give it.

Our third greyhound, Clipper (Nice Power), only came to live with us a few months ago. My husband and I met him in Wheeling during our first visit to see a real live greyhound race track. He came out of his pen and went straight for my husband and leaned on him in that way only a greyhound can. I was struck by him, but he was only cat “workable” and I already had a full house at home. Instead, I asked to foster him. Clipper, the clown, who plays like a puppy and eats everything edible or otherwise, taught me that I’m not really cut out to foster!

During this time, we had two children, who are now 1 ½ and 3 ½. I know all the books warn against greyhounds and young children, but I don’t like that generalization. My dogs all interact with my children in different ways. Lilo allows gentle pets, but will scamper off if things get too loud. Stitch sticks around, but often wears a stoic look and doesn’t really want to play. Clipper on the other hand loves the kids. He will tolerate hours of being led around and instantly come back for more. Occasionally, a child will lose their balance due to a greyhound in a hurry or be shocked by a loud bark when they startle a sleeping dog. If you send a consistent message to your children and your dogs about what is expected, everything will work out.

~ Danielle Bertram



### GPA/THREE RIVERS GREYHOUNDS, INC.

CONTACT US AT [INFO@GPATHREERIVERSGREYHOUNDS.ORG](mailto:INFO@GPATHREERIVERSGREYHOUNDS.ORG)

GPA /Three Rivers Greyhounds, PO Box 111202, Pittsburgh PA 15238 Phone / Fax: (724) 216-5820

## CAT TESTING A GREYHOUND - One-on-One with Peaches the Cat

How was it that your greyhound was determined to be cat-safe or not cat-safe? Three Rivers Greyhounds linked up with Peaches the Cat who has been our feline volunteer in helping our group place greyhounds in the appropriate homes with or without felines.



### **Tell us a little about yourself, your family and your greyhound companions.**

Peaches: I was actually abandoned by a family, but then I was found by some nice folks at a doctor's office who gave me soup to eat! I found my forever family by rubbing against and weaving around a couple's legs. Their daughter named me, not a real original name given my coat color but hey, I like it anyway. As for my age, you know we females don't like to tell our age, but the vet says I'm around 10. When I came home, I was kitty #5 and there were 3 greyhounds; now there are 7 of them! Another kitty (Chloe) came after me and we love playing together. I also love to chew on plastic and roll in catnip. I really love my life here, and I DO rule the greys!

### **Did you volunteer or where you chosen to "cat test" for TRG?**

P: I was chosen due to my belief in 'the bigger they are, the harder they fall'. That makes me the purr-fect cat tester.

### **When you first meet the prospective greyhounds, how do you size them up?**

P: I look beyond their mass of muscle and, dare I say, cuteness. I read their eyes and body language.

### **Do you let the hounds approach you? What warnings do you give the greyhounds that you are off limits?**

P: This is where it gets interesting. If there are no early warning signs of aggression, I do allow them to approach me. I watch them closely as they get near (the humans are holding me, and the dog is muzzled). Knowing where dogs put their noses when greeting other dogs, I don't take a chance of getting that greeting. YUCK! It's at this point I will hiss, and if needed, smack the hound on the side of its head with my paw. That usually sends the dog away from me.

### **Do you ever feel in danger when doing the 'cat testing'?**

P: No. Truth be told, most greys are gentle and smart enough not to mess with the superiority of felines.

### **How do you relax after completing your 'cat testing' duty?**

P: I don't refer to it as relaxing. I consider it celebrating another job well done. I sleep in the car until I get home and then get catnipped!

### **Do you have a favorite greyhound in your household?**

P: Not really. I rule them all!

### **Additional Hints to Keep Your Hound 'cat safe'**

Keeping your hound 'cat safe' is an on-going process. Never assume the household cat is completely off limits to your greyhound, especially during its period of adjustment to its forever home.

- Always provide a safe zone for your kitty. Put up baby gates that give the cat a 'hound free' area.
- Cats are curious and some brazen enough to enter your hound's 'personal space'. Be ready to correct any aggressive reaction by the greyhound. Remove the cat from the area.
- If you have chirpy or talkative cats, don't buy dog toys with squeakers in them. The dog might mistake a kitty for a toy!
- If leaving your home for several hours, consider putting your kitty in the basement or other room with the door shut. That way all of your family pets are safe.
- Always, always remember - if your cat is sometimes an outdoor cat, he/she will not be seen as the kitty that lives inside with your greyhound. All bets are off, and your greyhound may give chase after the cat.

**A Special Thank You** to the following individuals who have made donations to Three Rivers Greyhounds in the past year. 100% of all donations received go to the adoption and welfare of retired racing greyhounds.

Bernard Antol  
Debi Page  
Sue Yanakos

Joan Antelman  
Kathleen Green  
Clarence & Susan Madigan

Gerri Basa  
Judy Meehan

Vicky Gill  
Sheila Lenehan

Emily Evans  
Sandy Pscolyar

The following individuals made memorial donations:

In memory of Max and Sparkle Yanakos by Jan Lacy

In memory of Dara by Emily Evans

In memory of Johnny Cash Walz by Louise Evans

In memory of Molly Higgins by Patricia Wise



Pennies for Pups by Dan Durso



Pennies are worth more than one cent.

Consider this: over the course of the last 6 weeks, Susy and I have been picking up pennies we see on the ground. We have been keeping them rather than throwing them in that 'need a penny...take a penny' containers that are on most counters at convenience stores. We have been putting them in a jar labeled Pennies for Pups. In the last 6 weeks, we have accumulated about \$5 worth of pennies!

Now, consider doing this for 1 year, & all of us doing it! Simple math says 10 people could accumulate \$450 worth of pennies in one year! Imagine if we could get our families, friends, neighbors and co-workers involved.

Pennies for Pups is a program with unlimited potential. Please help out - pick up those pennies and save them for the greyhounds!

~~~~~  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSE
ON GREYHOUNDS**

Do you know someone who wants to learn more about greyhound adoption? Three Rivers Greyhounds will be presenting a free course "**Consider a Greyhound**" at the CCAC North Campus on **October 16 from 9 am to 12 noon**. Registration is necessary. If interested, you can register online at ccac.edu under "community education" **OR** register by calling 412.369.3701. If you know someone interested in greyhound adoption, please encourage them to attend!

Congratulations Greycie!

Special kudos to Greycie Kostka and her owner Linda on Greycie's graduation from obedience class!

Greyt job Greycie! We hope there were some special treats for you!



**UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

If you have not volunteered at a TRG event, now is the time to do so. Please contact the coordinator for the event listed. Many hands make light work!

DOGTOBERFEST - October 2, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. located at SouthSide Works, Pittsburgh, contact Susy Durso at Susy@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org to help.

GREEN TREE LIBRARY EVENT - November 9, from 6:30-8 p.m.; an educational meet n' greet for children. Coordinator needed. Contact info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org for info.

ZELIENOPLE/HARMONY FALL FESTIVAL - October 9 (9 am-7 pm) & 10 (12-5 pm), join craft & food vendors as TRG spreads the word about greyhound adoption. Contact Lisa Paulson at lilipaulson@gmail.com to man a 2-hour shift.

BOWLING FOR GREYHOUNDS SCORES A STRIKE!



The 5th Annual Bowling for Greyhounds event was held on August 1 in Greensburg.

Special thanks to Susy and Dan Durso for hosting this event, and to the following sponsors:

TanZar Kennels

Lou's Barber Shop

Dr. Patricia Talamo

Walton & Suder Insurance

And an extra special thank you to the participants who came out for a fun-filled afternoon of bowling. Thanks to everyone's efforts, TRG raised \$530 for greyhound adoption.



ONLINE AUCTION TO BENEFIT GREYHOUNDS

GPA Central Florida will be hosting a week-long Online Auction from September 12-20, 2010.



The online auction will be hosted by Alisha Navarro of 2 Hounds Design.

If you enjoy online auctions, then support GPA Central Florida by bidding on items.

Three Rivers Greyhounds receives adoptable rescued greyhounds through our sister chapter GPA Central Florida. We will send out more information about this event as soon as it is posted or visit www.floridagreyhounds.com

FORE! THE HOUNDS GOLF OUTING



A beautiful sunny day on the 4th annual Fore! The Hounds Golf Outing held August 29th made for another successful event for Three Rivers Greyhounds.

37 "pro" golfers enjoyed golfing on Lakevue North Golf Club's course, then enjoyed a sandwich buffet followed by a Chinese auction and 50/50 raffle. A total of \$475 was raised for greyhound adoption!

A big greyhound thank "roo" to Ruth Scheller and Coleen Scheller for organizing the event. Special thanks to the following sponsors for their support of this event:

TanZar Kennels

Lakevue North Golf Club

Rittswood Golf Club

Birdsfoot Golf Club

J.V. Golf Classic

Personal Touch Salon

And special thanks to "Arlo" and "Rosie", who served as ambassadors for Three Rivers Greyhounds and greeted the golfers as they came into the 19th hole!

IDEAS NEEDED!!



Three Rivers Greyhounds is always looking for new and unique ways of fundraising & spreading the message of greyhound adoption.

If you have an idea that you feel would benefit TRG's mission, please email us at-

info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org

Our events coordinator Dan Durso will contact you.

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc. is a 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.

President - Ruth Scheller

Vice President - Louise Evans

Director/Compliance Officer - Kyle Catanzarite

Secretary/Treasurer - Susy Durso

Director - Sue Yanakos