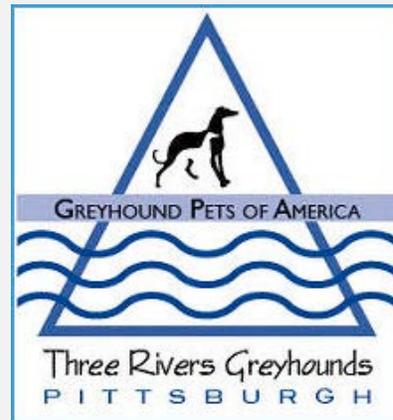


News and Roos

from
GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

March 2011

Issue #3



WHAT'S NEW AT THREE RIVERS GREYHOUNDS

It's hard to believe it's only been a mere 18 months since TRG came into being. After operating as a sub-chapter for close to 6 months, we became the official Western Pennsylvania chapter of Greyhound Pets of America in February 2010. What a proud day that was for all of us! Our dream of getting this group off the ground and fulfilling our goal of finding homes for greyhounds was finally a reality.

We've made "greyt" strides since then and accomplished so much, thanks in no small part to all of our wonderful volunteers and adopters. And I'm thrilled to announce we just reached a major milestone by placing our 50th greyhound in a forever home!

But there is still a long road ahead - so many greyhounds are still waiting to discover the joy of being loved by their own special human. All of us at TRG are more motivated than ever to keep the momentum going in 2011 and beyond. And you can help!

We have a fantastic group of dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time, but there's always more work to be done. If you have a little spare time, please spend it with us! Contact us if you'd like to become a volunteer, or just come on out to any event that interests you. Have an idea for a new venue or a fundraising idea? Let us know, we welcome all input.

Looking ahead, we have some new things on the horizon. In memory of our beloved Dara, a beautiful hound who died tragically before she made it to her forever home, we are starting the "Dara Smiles Fund". Donations made to this fund will be used exclusively for the care of special needs hounds. This may be a greyhound with a racing injury that is still being treated, or a hound with some other kind of medical condition requiring veterinary care. Look for more details about the Dara Smiles Fund in the newsletter.

Our first annual reunion will take place on Sunday, April 17 at Blueberry Hill Park in Wexford. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for an afternoon of fun! Your next hound may be there waiting for you!

In closing, TRG would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have opened your hearts and homes to a greyhound. With your help we can continue to spread the word about what wonderful companions greyhounds are, and make 2011 an even better year for all those still waiting for a forever home!

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



MEET RUMKIN! HE'S WAITING FOR A HOME!

Rumkin is a warm and friendly guy who uses his fawn good looks to steal your heart! Rumkin is a handsome, 2 year old youngster that will be a "greyt" addition to any home. He is fine with felines. His signature song is "Love Me Tender".

Inside this issue . . .

Lost and Found p.2
GPA National meeting p.2
Dara Smiles Fund /Greyt
Gourmet pg. 3
"Mutts" comic p.3
Greyt Wisdom p. 4
Rainbow Bridge p.4
Donations p.5
Five Questions with... P.5
'Irish' Greyhounds! .. p.5
Rock n' Roos Reunion
Info p.6

LOST AND FOUND GREYHOUND

It only takes a second for your greyhound to be off and running! An open door, an unlatched gate, or an opening in a fence will all provide perfect opportunities for your greyhound to run away. And run they will!



- First and foremost, **DO NOT PANIC!** Most everyone who has ever shared a home with a hound will tell you that the hound has gone missing at one time or another. The important thing is to stay calm and immediately enlist the help of GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds volunteers.
- Call **(724) 216-5820** to provide details of where and when your greyhound made a break for a taste of off-lead adventure and any other information that may be useful in the search.
- If your greyhound is still close enough to see, **DO NOT GIVE CHASE!** Remember that these hounds are incredibly fast runners and chasing may only encourage the escapee to run further away from you. Instead, take a leash and some treats with you and keep calling your hound's name, from a squatting position, in a happy tone of voice. You may also want to walk another hound (any breed will do) to entice your hound to come to you. If you are successful in luring your hound to you, remember to give a lot of praise as a reward for responding to you.
- If, however, your greyhound is out of sight, time is critical. As more time passes, the search becomes more difficult. Consider asking neighbors to join in the search by walking around your neighborhood and reporting any sightings. Children are often very helpful at assisting in searches because their small size and high voice are not threatening.
- If your search goes beyond an hour, it is highly advisable to call veterinarians, humane societies, animal shelters and the police department in your area to alert them to your greyhound's escape. You may also consider posting signs in veterinarian's offices and local businesses with the name and photograph of your hound, breed, color, escape date/ time and your phone number. If you decide to offer a reward, be aware that you may receive calls claiming to have your hound. The reward should only be given for the safe return of your hound.



In order to be successful in finding your hound, you must be persistent and willing to respond to all legitimate sightings. Be sure to check your voicemail frequently for calls about sightings of your hound. You must pursue every lead until your greyhound is returned safely to your home.

Losing your greyhound, for even a short period of time, is very stressful, but the good news is you can take positive steps to ensure that your hound never has an opportunity to escape again! Take time to follow this common-sense advice.

- Adjust the martingale collar so that it is secure. Greyhounds are very adept at backing their heads and necks out of their collars.
- Repair any openings in your home's fences, gates and doors. Install locks and automatic gate closers.
- Do not leave your greyhound unattended for long periods of time outside in enclosed areas of the yard.
- Do not exercise your greyhound off lead unless the area is completely enclosed on all four sides and secured by gates.
- Keep an eye on your greyhound especially when there are guests in your home. An open door is a huge temptation for almost every hound.

Keeping your greyhound safe is the key to a long-lasting life!

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!



2011 Greyhound Pets of America Annual Meeting Held in Orlando

by Kyle Catanzarite

Delegates from the majority of Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) chapters from across the country gathered in Orlando, Florida on January 14, 2011 to attend the annual business meeting and to visit with friends and new faces to the greyhound adoption community. Representing GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds at the meeting were Susy Durso, Dan Durso, Ruth Scheller and Kyle Catanzarite.

The focus of the meeting was two-fold. Much of the day was spent reviewing and revising the Policies and Procedures Manual to reflect changes that have occurred in the business operation of GPA and to respond to changes in the greyhound racing industry.

A topic of lengthy discussion was whether or not a home visit should be made a mandatory GPA policy. Even though most chapters do conduct home visits prior to placing a greyhound in a home, including GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, a few chapters informed the national officers that requiring a home visit would present a hardship since it would require that volunteers travel exceptionally long distances. A final decision was reached that strongly suggested that home visits be conducted whenever feasible in lieu of making a home visit mandatory prior to every adoption.



Another topic of great interest was the impending "greyhound tsunami" that will strike when the effects of proposed legislation in

Florida, allowing racetracks to overturn the requirement for live racing in order to operate card table and casino gambling, take place.

This legislation could be passed by the end of March, and if it does, there could be as many as

6 of the total 13 racetracks in Florida closing at the same time. Estimates are that as many as 2,000 greyhounds will have nowhere to go in the wake of the closings.

Regardless of when the legislation is passed, this change will pose a huge challenge to every GPA chapter. The national officers have requested that all chapters devise a "disaster plan" for dealing with the overwhelming number of greyhounds that will need to be moved into adoption groups. GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds officers have discussed plans to meet this challenge, including utilizing foster homes to maximize the number of hounds that can be moved into the adoption program at any given time. Undoubtedly, there is much concern about the magnitude of the tsunami and the level of response the greyhound adoption community will be able to make.

In conjunction with the annual meeting, there was an opportunity for all GPA chapter delegates to attend the 27th International Canine Sports Symposium, held on January 15 -16, 2011 in Orlando. One of the presentations during the symposium dealt specifically with greyhound racing injuries and the success in repairing the fractures and other damage so that the rehabilitated greyhound can resume racing.

Attendance at both the annual meeting and symposium by our chapter provided additional learning opportunities about greyhounds as pets, about their racing careers and about the changes taking place in the greyhound racing industry that will affect and challenge each of us!

~~~~~ From GPA National --

Greyhound Pets of America would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to Rachael Ray, founder of "Rachael's Rescue" and creator of [Nutrish](#) premium pet food products, for her extraordinary \$25,000 donation to our organization.

Her generosity is greatly appreciated, and will be a tremendous help to us in fulfilling our Mission with the Greyhounds. Many thanks to her and everyone who have so generously contributed assistance to this incredible breed.





The Dara Smiles Fund

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc. has established the “**Dara Smiles Fund**” for greyhounds that come to our chapter needing exceptional veterinary care. Many greyhounds suffer injuries or illnesses that end their racing careers and make them more difficult to place unless they receive special veterinary care. The Dara Smiles Fund will allow us to take in injured or ill greyhounds, provide the necessary care and find the hounds their forever homes. Funding is always a concern; therefore GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. will dedicate all proceeds from the sale of The Greyt Gourmet cookbook to the Dara Smiles Fund.

~~~~~

## LOOK WHAT WE'RE COOKING UP!!

Three Rivers Greyhounds is excited to announce the publishing of our first cookbook – The Greyt Gourmet! The cookbook will be available for purchase in April and at our reunion on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Full of tasty recipes for humans and hounds alike, this is one cookbook that is a MUST for anyone who has a kitchen (and an appetite)! Purchase one for yourself and anyone who enjoys cookbooks. (Our hounds say that the book would make a greyt Mother's Day gift!)



Cost of The Greyt Gourmet is \$12.00 per book, and all net proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will be used for the Dara Smiles Fund.

~~~~~

Special Thanks to Ruth Scheller for obtaining permission to reprint the following comic. It says it all about greyhound adoption!



Greyt Wisdom



by Dan Durso

A man is king of his castle, until a greyhound moves in. My throne(the couch) is no longer occupied by me. This happened simply by me coaxing them up to sit with me. Now it's theirs! I no longer have full say so in actually watching a Steelers game. My attention to the television seems to trigger jealousy, which leads to rooing, nudging and a 73 lb lap dog on the recliner with me. I don't get to entertain guests any more -- they do all the entertaining. In fact, they steal the show!

Sleeping the night through has ended. Nothing says 'WAKE UP' like a grey running in her sleep while her paws are against your side. No, I'm not the king of my castle anymore, but it sure is greyt to be a servant to them.

~~~~

Greyhounds bring people together. It is because of TRG that I've the opportunity to meet many of you. I have formed friendships and consider all of you to be part of our greyhound family. Four of us recently had the opportunity to attend the annual GPA National Board meeting in Orlando, FL. While there, I met and talked with GPA volunteers from California, Wisconsin and Illinois, amongst others.

It didn't take long for me to realize how large the greyhound family is. Everyone I spoke to has the same passion for finding homes for the hounds. We shared information that surely will be helpful in our ongoing efforts. One of the things everyone had in common was the way their faces lit up when discussing our challenges. I left there feeling part of something very special. I want you all to know that you are part of something special: The Greyhound Family.

-- Dan Durso



*Remembering Those Hounds who have crossed  
the Bridge --*

*Jack Phoebe  
Bob Burkholder Stolar*

*It occurs to me that every time I lose a dog, he takes a piece of my heart with him.*

*Then every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of his heart.*

*Therefore if I should live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog...*

*and I will then become as generous and loving as they are. .*

*~~Author Unknown*



### Five Questions with ...

Dan Durso

1. Funniest greyhound moment: When we took our cat, Peaches, to the greyhound farm in Wheeling and watching these big 70+lb greyhounds shake in her presence!
2. How many greyhounds do you share your home with? 7
3. If your greyhound was an actor, what role would they more than likely play? A con artist
4. If your greyhound could talk, what secret would he/she let out about you? According to Malden, I'm a real pushover when given the puppy dog eyes, even in the middle of the night!
5. Most unusual greyhound trait? Pasha –she's always running in her sleep! And she goes fast!

**COMING SOON!** More adoptable hounds arriving from Florida at the end of March! They're waiting to race into your home and heart!

### THREE RIVERS GREYHOUNDS GO IRISH

On Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Three Rivers Greyhounds' owners and hounds put on their St. Patty's Day best and marched in Pittsburgh's St. Patrick's Day Parade. All the hounds were decked out in their Irish finery and marched the 2-mile parade like pros! Check out some photos as we waited for the parade to start!



A special thank you to those who have made donations to GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc. since our last newsletter was published.

Bernie Antol  
 Larry & Anne Moskovitz  
 Ruth Scheller  
 Nicholas Gongolas & Pauline Peters  
 The Petco Foundation



### **Ten Toxins in the Kitchen Keep These Away from your Family Pet!**

1. Chocolate
2. Grapes, raisins, and currants
3. Xylitol/sugar free gum/candy
4. Fatty table scraps
5. Onions and garlic
6. Compost
7. Human medications
8. Macadamia nuts
9. Household cleaners
10. Unbaked bread dough/alcohol



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> from 3-7 p.m**

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT! WE WANT YOU THERE!**

# Three Rivers Greyhounds Rock n' Roos Reunion



**COME TO OUR INAUGURAL REUNION!  
WE HAVE LOTS TO CELEBRATE!**

The reunion will be a time to reconnect with our adopters, fellow greyhound owners and also meet our current adoptables!

This event will also be a fundraiser for our group – we'll have a silent auction with many greyhound and non-greyhound items, generously donated by greyhound groups and our community.

There will be games for our hounds, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, a chance to purchase TRG's clothing and our new cookbook, and good food to eat!

We hope to have a veterinarian to speak on greyhound health.

**WHEN:** Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>  
3-7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Blueberry Hill Park, 34 Blueberry Lane, Wexford PA

**DONATION:** \$10 per adult, children 12 and under are free

**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

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

