

News and Roos

From

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.



MARCH 2012

Issue #7

IT'S REUNION TIME!!



Save The Date!

Our 2nd Annual Rock N' Roos Reunion is scheduled for **Sunday, April 15** at Blueberry Hill Park in Franklin Park, 3:00pm – 7:00pm. (This is the same venue as last year.)

Last year's event was a smashing success and we expect this year to be even better. Back for this year will be the greyhound games, and of course, the greyhound group 'roo'! Some new things happening this year will be a blessing of the hounds, pet portraits and vendors selling their "greyt" merchandise.

Have you ever wondered just how fast your hound can run? Well, don't miss the speed run this year! We'll have a safe area set up where your hound can tear up the turf while being clocked by a radar gun, and a professional photographer to capture your hound in full stride!

Join us again for a day of food, fun and frivolity. We hope to see you there!

The Officers and Board of Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

Mark Your Calendars for the Upcoming TRG Events!



Saturday, March 17 – Pittsburgh's St. Patrick's Day Parade (more details on page 5)

Sunday, April 15, -- TRG's 2nd Annual Rock n' Roos Reunion (more details on page 6)

Friday, April 20 – Linda Evans Art Class (more details on page 5)

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Twilight's Sunrise

I love all greyhounds and they are all special in their own ways. But, every once in awhile, there is one that just captures your heart. I met that particular greyhound not too long ago. His name is Twilight.

I went to Wheeling, WV to 'cat test' several new pets that would be coming into TRG's adoption system. I put Peaches, my greyhound terrorizing kitty (but that's another story!), to work testing the new pets.

We got to the kennel marked 'Twilight'. I looked inside and there was this beautiful, yet sad looking, greyhound. He was terrified of Peaches. He was 'cat safe'.

Twilight hovered in the back part of the kennel. His tail was tucked between his legs and he trembled when I was in the kennel. He had scars all over. He had bites on his ears. He had sadness in his eyes. I went to pet him, and he melted in my hands and looked at me as if to say "Please!"

I wondered what his story was. Where did he come from? How did he get so marked up? Why was he so shy and timid? My guess is that he was yelled at a lot, and somewhat neglected by the trainers. Whatever his story was, I knew what his story would be from now on.....a HAPPY story!

Twilight had arrived at the kennel from a Florida track and the kennel was told to retire him. I fell in love with this boy! If I didn't have 7 greys in my home, he wouldn't have even made it to the adoption system. He would have come straight to my house. But, unfortunately, I couldn't do that.

But I HAD to do something! Three greyhounds were to come back with us for adoption. The rest would have to wait until we had room. We had an unexpected vacancy and were able to take another hound home! I said Twilight needed to come into our system that day. He made the trip back to Taznar Kennels to find his forever home.

Twilight had tapeworms and had fly bites all over his ears. It looked as if he had a tangle with barbed wire fencing and lost with all the scars on his legs. Or maybe he was trying to get out of a crate or his front legs got caught on something. He was tested for mange (negative!), treated for tapeworms and had 4 flea baths.

He was socialized and prepared for adoption. Twilight is a beautiful greyhound, both inside and out!! He was so beautiful that he didn't wait too long to find his forever home...he was adopted on February 11th!

This particular hound was so special to me....he reached out to me for help and won my heart over, as he has won the hearts of his new family. Twilight...or whatever his family chose to name him...will always be special to me.

He is the reason I do what I do.

~~ Susy Durso



*Remembering Those Hounds
that have crossed the bridge....*

Camry Scheller



Greyt
Wisdom



Greyt Wisdom

I recently visited my brother in Virginia Beach. While strolling along the boardwalk, I noticed a couple walking their greyhound. As you can imagine, I just *had* to greet the hound and introduce not only myself, but Three Rivers Greyhounds.

As we were talking, many people would approach and ask permission to pet the hound. It was interesting to hear this couple answer the same questions we typically get at our meet n greets. They did so with the same knowledge and passion that we display. As we chatted and exchanged our stories on how greyhounds won our hearts, it felt like I had known these people for years.

I was 400 miles from my house, yet felt at home. This is further testament on just how large the greyhound family is.

~~ Dan Durso

Online Auction a Greyt Success!

TRG's inaugural online auction was a HUGE success!!! Our first ever auction started on Sunday 2/19 and ended Sunday 2/26.

For 7 days, greyhound lovers from all over bid on 84 items, including martingale collars, t-shirts, jewelry, posters, prints, a Marc Andre Fleury autographed jersey with certificate of authenticity, and Disney park hopper passes!



There was a flurry of bids on the last day with bidders sitting at the edge of their seats... ..wondering...did I win? Items from our auction have been shipped to Washington, Nevada, Colorado, Maine, Vermont, Winnipeg, Toronto, Quebec, and of course, locally!

We successfully raised \$2354.50 for the hounds! If you missed this year's auction...there will be another auction next year!

Thank you for all your support!

Thank you to our Greyt sponsors!

The following people sponsored adoptable hounds by making \$25 donations to TRG. Their names were listed beside each hound's picture & bio on our website.

*Mark & Lisa Paulson
Sandi Pcsolyar
Diane & Paul Passantino*

A memorial donation was received in memory of Liisa Stolar by George and Kaye Lucchino.

Thank you.



The Gift from a Greyhound

Iruska Adaland, now known as Ada, was adopted through Three Rivers Greyhounds in August 2010. Ada was a beautiful 2-year old girl who didn't have much of a racing career but has gone on to a career as a therapy dog with her adopter Carrie.

Ada has a way of adding so much to my life. I had all the right intentions for adopting her. I would give her a forever home; full of love, joy and experience. What I didn't expect was just how she would impact MY life.

You see, Ada showed me, within the first months of adopting her, that she was destined to be a Therapy Dog. Here is just one story of how she teaches all of those around her what true love and compassion mean.



Ada

We met "Benji" * at Children's Hospital not long after getting certified for Therapy work. He was in the playroom with all of the other children. He was smiling, laughing and being an all around rambunctious kid, with one difference, he had lost his entire right leg to osteosarcoma. Anyone who owns a Greyhound knows that they too are in danger of getting this dreaded cancer.

Immediately, Ada took to Benji. With bright blue eyes, light blond hair and a smile that lit up a room, you could not help but adore him. He had to be in pain, but you couldn't tell when he was at play, especially with his favorite girl, Ada!

Over the next 10 months of knowing Benji we watched his decline. Chemo and radiation are brutal. He was terminal from the onset. They were just trying to buy him more quality time.

It had been about two months since we had seen Benji, when we received an urgent call. Benji was fading and his last wish was to see Ada once again. You do NOT say no to a child in that situation.

As we entered the room, all was quite. Benji saw Ada and smiled a weak smile. She immediately "walked" onto his bed and lay down next to him, placing her head in the crux of his arm so that he could pet her and she could do what he liked most, feel her breath on his face.

The magic of a true Therapy Dog is not just the joy and encouragement that they give to their "patients"; it is their innate knowing exactly what they need and when they need it. Ada knew what Benji needed; peace, comfort and unconditional love, and she gave it to him with her whole heart.

Ada never moved from her guard post, in the crux of his arm, for over 11 hours. She would drink when I brought her water by lifting her head but no bathroom breaks, no eating and she would not allow a disturbance during this time. It was quiet and peaceful in the room for Benji's last hours, Ada and his family giving him what he wanted most, that peace, comfort and unconditional love.

We knew when Benji was leaving, for Ada alerted us. She kept lifting her head to look into his face. Once Benji breathed his last at the age of 7, Ada stayed in her same position for a few moments; she then lifted her head, gave him one kiss, got off the bed and asked to go outside. The kiss was unusual because Therapy Dogs are trained not to do that, but it was understood by all, it was her way of saying goodbye.

To anyone who is owned by a Greyhound they know the true heart of a Grey. They begin life chasing after rabbits for their breeders and trainers for money. Once they are in their forever homes, they chase after life and love for nothing more than a tummy rub.

To anyone who is considering becoming a Greyhound owner, there are a few things you need to know. First, you will be owned by a Grey, not the other way around, for they will forever steal your heart. Second, they are wise, so very wise. Be open to what they so willingly want to teach. Lastly, they are champions whether on the track or off. They will teach you how to be a champion in everything you do, most importantly, how to be a positive influence on the world, just by being who you are.

~ Carrie Schmucker

**Name of the child has been changed.*

*Bring Your Greyhound & Strut Your Stuff
at the St. Patrick's Day Parade!*



Last year Three Rivers Greyhounds made their debut in Pittsburgh's annual St. Patrick's Parade. The weather was balmy and our group was well received by everyone at the parade. It was a fun way to show what grey pets our greyhounds make and spread the word about greyhound rescue and adoption.

Why not join us this year and be part of the festivities! We'll have a green coat for your hound and other accessories for hounds and humans.

Lisa Paulson is in charge of our group. If your hound is begging you to come down, please contact Lisa at lilipaulson@gmail.com so she can forward you parade information on staging area, time to meet, etc.

Since the parade is on a Saturday, this is a great opportunity for those who work M-F to be part of our contingent. Hope to see you there!

~ ~ ~ ~

*Linda Evans Art Class
Friday, April 20, 2012
Cranberry Twp. Public Library*

Three Rivers Greyhounds is sponsoring an art class with Linda Evans on April 20.

Design Artist, Art Educator and Greyhound "Mom", Linda Evans will take students, regardless of talent, through a special step by step process to a finished, framed piece of art.

Participants may choose from an array of design motifs, including, but not limited to, greyhounds!

There will be two classes; the first class starts at 1:30 pm, and the second class starts at 4:30 p.m. Classes run about 2-2.5 hours. Class size is limited to 16-18 per class. Donation is \$35 per person. **Please be punctual in arriving for your class.**

Pre-registration is required. Register by completing/ printing out the tear-off form below and mailing to Lisa Paulson, 209 Jacobs Court, Cranberry Twp PA 16066. Checks should be made out to "Linda K. Evans". Registration deadline is **Monday, April 16, 2012**. Additional questions may be directed to Lisa Paulson lilipaulson@gmail.com or 412-956-5209.



Linda K. Evans is a design artist with a specialty in colored pencil. She makes her art in the rural beauty of Vermont with her husband Ron and their Greyhounds.

Linda's work has been nationally exhibited. She is both artist and educator and brings the imagery of the Greyhound to both her own art and the creativity of her students who participate in her greyhound design workshops.



REGISTRATION FOR LINDA EVANS ART CLASS – APRIL 20, 2012

NAME _____ Number attending _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone # _____

Class preference (check one) _____ 1:30 pm _____ 4:30 pm _____

Flexible _____ (check this if you are able to attend either 1:30 or 4:30 class and don't have a preference. This will help us evenly fill both classes.) You will be notified of your time slot in advance of the class.

Donation of \$35/person. Registration form with checks payable to "Linda K. Evans" must be received **by April 16, 2012**.

Mail to: Lisa Paulson, 209 Jacobs Court, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066.



Three Rivers Greyhounds Rock n' Roos Reunion

2012 GPA/THREE RIVERS GREYHOUND REUNION

**APRIL 15TH from 3-7 p.m.
BLUEBERRY HILL COMMUNITY CENTER
Franklin Park, PA**

3:30 p.m. *Blessing of the Hounds*

4-5 p.m. *Fun Run ~How Fast Can Your Hound Run?*

The reunion will be a time to reconnect with our adopters, and fellow greyhound owners, and to also meet current adoptables! We will have vendors, a pet photographer, and more!

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 good food to eat!

WHEN: Sunday April 15th
3-7 p.m.

WHERE: Blueberry Hill Park, 604 Blaine's Way, Franklin Park, PA 15143

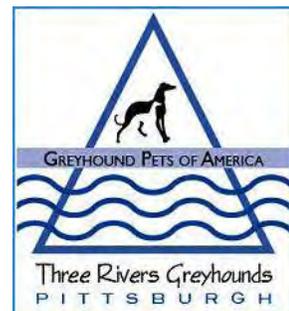
DONATION: \$10 per adult, children 12 and under are free

RSVP – please email us at info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org re: number attending by April 6, 2012.

GPA/THREE RIVERS GREYHOUNDS, INC.

CONTACT US AT 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



Upcoming Events - Greyhound Events Happen Year-Round!



GREYHOUNDS IN GETTYSBURG

April 27 – 29, 2012 Gettysburg, PA

Why not combine your love of greyhounds with a visit to historic Gettysburg for a weekend of greyhound merchandise shopping, seminars, and hound and family-friendly events. Event registration is required, though children under 16 attend for free with a paying adult. Visit GreyhoundsInGettysburg.com for information on registration, lodging for you and your hound, and more!

GRAPEHOUNDS WINE TOUR

May 11-13 2012 Leesburg, VA

The Grapehound Wine Tour is a celebration of greyhounds and greyhound adoption that includes a custom Grapehound wine glass for each participant, Welcome party, wine tasting at various wineries, music, nationally known vendors, and beautiful scenery. Visit www.grapehounds.com for more information.

Photos Wanted for Celebrating Greyhounds 2013 Calendar

The Greyhound Project collects photos for the Celebrating Greyhounds Calendars all year long. However, submission deadline for next year's calendar is April 4, 2012.

Digital images must have been taken at the highest resolution that your camera will produce in order to be acceptable for printing. Send a print of the image as well as a copy of the image on a CD. 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, and 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.

Don't rule your photos out; please note that TRG's very own Susy Durso had one of her pictures used in the 2012 wall calendar.

Visit the following site to learn all the details on how you can submit your photos of your favorite greyhounds--
http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cg/submit_your_photo.shtml

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2012 will be fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds!