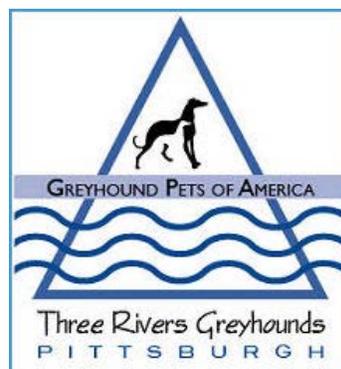


News and Roos from GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds

ISSUE 24

JUNE 2016



WOW!! This is the 24th edition of our newsletter "News and Roos", six years of publishing greyhound news for our adopters and supporters. As always, we hope that you will read the newsletter from 'nose tip' to 'tail end' since there is exciting news about TRG and the world of greyhound adoption.

Look for the following articles ~

- ◆ United Pathfinder Project – a joint project among greyhound adoption groups for the benefit of finding greyhounds homes (page 2-3)
- ◆ Greyhounds fly via the 'canine friendly' skies of Brave Tide Foundation into TRG adoption program (p.4)
- ◆ Greyhounds and holistic medicine (p.7)
- ◆ Dealing with Greyhounds and Separation Anxiety (p.6)
- ◆ Upcoming Events for the Summer (p.8)
- ◆ Fore The Hounds Charity Golf Outing results (p.8-9)



And of course, we will have our usual quarterly features to thank those who have made donations to TRG and to remember those greyhounds that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge (p.5).

Our next newsletter will be published as the fall season approaches -- we hope that you and your hounds have an enjoyable, fun-filled and safe summer!

Ruth Scheller, President
Sue Yanakos, Treasurer

Kyle Catanzarite, Vice President
Louise Evans, Secretary

Lisa Paulson, Compliance Officer



GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2016 will be fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds.

GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA UNITED PATHFINDER PROJECT (UPP)

by
Kyle Catanzarite



In March, Dennis Tyler, my friend and president of the Central Florida Chapter of GPA, asked me to join the United Pathfinder Project (UPP). This project, still in the planning stages, will prepare greyhound adoption groups across the country and Canada for the probability that future legislation will impact greyhounds racing in West Virginia and Florida.

If enacted, the proposed legislation may result in the need for large numbers of greyhounds to be moved from racetracks *if* multiple racetracks discontinue racing at the same time.

Collectively, the 12-member volunteer UPP board has over 200 years of combined adoption experience, and has been responsible for placing more than 29,000 greyhounds in homes since 1980. I'm honored to join this group of dedicated greyhound adoption volunteers who are active on both the GPA chapter and national levels.

The group's mission is to contact greyhound adoption groups across the country and in Canada, and determine how they can work cooperatively to address the challenges of greater numbers of greyhounds that will become available for adoption in the future.

In 2016, both the West Virginia and Florida legislators came very close to approving legislation affecting greyhound racing. If those bills had been approved, it could have meant that greyhound racing would end or be curtailed significantly. In both states, legislators are determined to end subsidies to greyhound racing and redirect these funds for use in the state budgets.

The "decoupling" legislation is designed to eliminate laws that mandate racetracks continue live racing in order to operate poker rooms. "Defunding" legislation is designed to remove subsidies paid by the state to the racing industry, thereby making it unprofitable for greyhound owners to continue to race their dogs.

Both pieces of legislation likely could receive approval in 2017 and be the driving forces for these states to significantly reduce or end racing. Several Florida racetracks are also lobbying to "decouple" the live racing mandate in order to operate poker rooms while cutting their losses during live racing.

It is evident that there will be future legislation that will affect the profitability of greyhound racing, which is why we feel our project is needed to ensure as many retired greyhounds as possible will find homes. The United Pathfinder Project's only agenda is to provide support for the greyhounds needing homes; **the Project will remain neutral** to pro- or anti-greyhound racing factions.

In January 2017, both Florida and West Virginia will begin their legislative sessions; they will end sometime in March. It is presumed that any bill approved by either legislature would become law on July 1, 2017. That is just a little over a year from now. Preparation for meeting the challenges created by the passage of any proposed legislation must begin **now!**

While there is no way to predict with certainty when decoupling and defunding legislation will be enacted, the consensus of those who follow the legislative sessions is that passage of the legislation is not “if” but “when.”

While the majority of greyhound adoption groups are operating at capacity, a greater need for transporting and adopting greyhounds will challenge every adoption group to “think outside the box.” Transports of greyhounds and adoption placements will need to increase significantly.



One of the most important early priorities of United Pathfinder Project members is to keep all greyhound adoption groups, including those not affiliated with GPA, updated on legislative events.

Fundraising will be a very critical aspect of preparing for a response to the legislation’s effects. Other ways to prepare include contacting local boarding kennels to see if they can provide reduced boarding rates; starting a dialog with local vets about reduced costs to spay and neuter; and contacting local pet stores for food donations.

This response to legislative activity plan has a three-stage implementation:

- Inform adoption groups of the potential legislation that will require the transport and adoption of large numbers of greyhounds.
- Update adoption groups with information about the activity within the legislative sessions.
- Issue a “call to action” to adoption groups when legislation has been passed. Approximately 90 days will pass from the time a bill is passed until it becomes law.



If you are interested in joining the Three Rivers Greyhounds committee to develop plans to meet the challenges created by legislative decisions affecting greyhound transport and adoption, please contact a TRG board member. All ideas and input are welcome and needed!

In conclusion, it is important to note that if, at the time West Virginia racetracks discontinue racing, many greyhounds will be moved to other operating racetracks, presumably in Florida. Those greyhounds remaining will need to be adopted in large numbers. The less qualified greyhounds racing at that time in Florida will be displaced by West Virginia dogs and will need to be transported to adoption groups throughout the country for placement in homes.

CONTACT: info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org

The Greyhounds Are Coming, The Greyhounds Are Coming!

by Ruth Scheller

Sunday, May 15, 2016 marked an exciting first in TRG's history. That morning, six lucky Greyhounds boarded a small private plane in Tampa, Florida and started their journey north to find a forever home in Pittsburgh.



Greyhounds inside the plane as it taxis to excited TRG volunteers

Pilot Jason Hilt, founder of The Brave Tide Foundation, left warm and sunny Tampa with his six canine co-pilots and flew into Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe. It was a chilly, blustery day in Pennsylvania and a bit of culture shock for these Florida hounds!

But in true Greyhound fashion, six happy dogs greeted the volunteers on hand with tails wagging and excitement bubbling in their beautiful brown eyes. They quickly took care of "business" and then hopped into waiting vehicles to make their way to our adoption kennel.

This isn't the first time that TRG has received Greyhounds from the state of Florida, but this is the first group to have made their way to us through the air. It was quite an exciting day for everyone involved!

This transport was also very special in that it represents the launch of the United Pathfinder Project, which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter. The success of this flight was due in large part to the combined efforts of the folks from GPA/Tampa, and all the volunteers from GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds who gave their time to greet the plane upon arrival in Latrobe.

Thanks also to our friends at Going Home Greyhounds, who took two of the six dogs into their adoption program.

Simba, Brady, Jash, Ohio, Frankie and Danny are ready to start the next phase of their journey – from racetrack to plane to couch! At the time of this writing, Frankie has already settled happily into his new home, while Jash and Danny have potential families in the works.

Do you have room in your home and heart for another hound?

We can help you with that – let's talk!!



"All passengers inside, please remain seated (oh wait, you're greyhounds) until the plane comes to a complete stop."



Frankie (left) & Danny (right) agree that pilot Jason Hilt gave them the flight of their lives. Now, if they can just find their baggage claim tickets!

**REMEMBERING THOSE HOUNDS THAT HAVE RECENTLY
CROSSED THE BRIDGE...**



Doyle, loved by Kyle and Bob Catanzarite

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS, we acknowledge the following donations to Three Rivers Greyhounds ~

In memory of Catherine Strychor, mother of Sandy Strychor
Sandy Strychor and Dave Kost
Nancy and Steve Utiss
Bev Stulen
Maryann and Vince Flot
Bill and Sue Yanakos
Ruth Scheller
Paul and Jacqueline Kost
Peter Mantzaris
Kyle and Bob Catanzarite

In memory of greyhound Baby Brie,
Nancy and Steve Utiss
Arlene Gunia

In memory of greyhound Doyle by Kyle and Bob Catanzarite
Julie Anthony
Angela Willis

THANK YOU to the following individuals who made donations to "Sponsor a Greyhound" on the TRG website ~

Nick and Allyson Kalich
Kara Cornett
Dan Loughlin

HELPING GREYHOUNDS KEEP THEIR COOL



Recently, the air conditioning unit at the Sunburst Project quit working and needed to be replaced. With the brutal heat and humidity of a Florida summer upon us, an urgent call for assistance went out to greyhound adoption groups.

Because TRG pulls greyhounds from the Sunburst Project into our adoption program, the TRG board made a donation of \$1000 to help cover the costs for a new A/C unit at its kennel.

President Ruth Scheller received the following thank you to TRG via email.

Ruth - wanted to personally thank you for Three Rivers' donation to Sunburst. A serious crisis was averted - with all the pups cool, safe, and sound, thanks to you all and others who stepped up when we really needed help.

It was very humbling, and inspiring, to see that our efforts at Sunburst are recognized and supported by wonderful people and groups - thank you again for the generous donation.

Sincerely yours - in greyhound adoption -

Linda

Separation Anxiety in Greyhounds

by Sandy Strychor, ABCDT

Greyhounds may experience separation anxiety (SA) when they are alone. It can be a frightening experience for your hound and frustrating for you. There isn't a quick fix, but there are things you can do to reduce the anxiety.

Why do greyhounds experience SA? Greys have spent most of their lives in kennels surrounded by dozens of other greyhounds. They are never alone.

When they are adopted and move into your home, it is likely the first time in their lives that they are without the company of other greyhounds. Some greyhounds may recognize another breed of dog as company; others will only recognize another greyhound as a companion.

Some dogs start out without any issues and then suddenly develop SA. Something may have happened while you were out (loud noises outside your home – like construction or a thunderstorm), a change in your routine, or the loss of a family member (human or canine).

Symptoms can include: chewing on furniture or shoes, scratching at the doors or windowsills. They may bark and whine, forget that they are housetrained and defecate or urinate in the house due to stress. If they are crated, they may bite the crate to the point of breaking their teeth and bending the wires.

What you can do....

Coming and going...it's no big deal. Don't look deep into his eyes and have a long 'goodbye' and fuss over him. Just get ready to leave and then go. The same applies upon your return home. Don't rush through the door to tell him how much you missed him. When you come home, go over to the door and let him out to potty. When he is finished in the yard, pet and tell him you missed him.

Practice the 'cues' of leaving your house. Continuously pick up your keys, or your purse, and put them down again. Put your coat on and off all during the day. Go in and out of the door you use to leave in the morning. These things will desensitize your dog to your leaving cues.

Crate your greyhound if he is familiar with a crate. Greys have spent their entire lives in a crate and view it as a safe place. This will reduce the chances of him getting hurt in his panic, and to preserve your home. Do not force a dog into a crate.

*A crate should be a safe place in your dog's mind. This only works if you don't use it for punishment. Place the crate in a happy familiar place like the family room or kitchen.

*Make it comfortable with some safe toys for him (rope toys, a Kong filled and frozen with peanut butter mixed with yogurt, or Nylabones).

*Place an article of your previously worn, unwashed clothing in the crate for him to smell your scent and calm him down.

Sandy is certified by the Animal Behavior College for dog training. She has worked with retired racing greyhounds for over 15 years, and currently has 2 retired racers along with 2 other dogs & 4 cats.



Sandy has devoted generously of her time and talents as part of TRG's fundraising efforts.

Beggin' to Behave Dog Training www.beggintobehave.com beggintobehave@gmail.com

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Holistic Veterinary Medicine

by Maryann Flot & Bev Stulen



Are you looking for a more natural and holistic way to keep your furry friends healthy? The usual meaning for **holistic veterinarian** is a veterinarian who specializes in one or more alternative or complementary treatments, of which there are many, ranging from chiropractic care to Chinese medicine. Listed below are some of the choices available for you to investigate. As always though, it is important to be sure your veterinarian is open to these therapies.

Massage Therapy—A massage can provide relief when the soft tissues are irritated, relieving stiffness and promoting flexibility. There is a class offered through the Allegheny County Community College on animal massage that is quite informative and hands-on.

Chiropractic Care—Dog chiropractic care is a drug-free alternative to healing the body of your dog. It may benefit a dog who is experiencing muscle or joint pain. There are several animal chiropractors in our area, and also human chiropractors who are certified in animal care.

Tellington Touch or TTouch is a system of circular movements all over the pet's body that helps to release tension.

Acupuncture is becoming more widely accepted by veterinarians, and is effective in reducing pain and inflammation. Many dogs relax and actually fall asleep during a treatment. There are several certified animal acupuncturists in the area, who will take a detailed medical history and do a full workup. Then, the vet can decide if acupuncture would be of benefit to your dog.

Acupressure is a hands-on therapy that works by applying pressure to various identified points on your dog's body. It originated thousands of years ago as part of a holistic healing system called Traditional Chinese Medicine. There are dog acupressure and pressure point charts available that identify the ailments that each point addresses. An acupuncturist can teach you how and where to apply acupressure to your dog.

Laser Therapy is now widely available in many traditional vet offices. It is used to increase circulation for repairing damaged tissue, reducing pain and inflammation, and promoting healing.

Herbs—Medicinal herbs are plants that possess healing properties that go beyond those found in healthy foods. The list of herbs for various maladies is extensive and requires in-depth study.

Bach Flower Essence is a system for healing the emotional outlook and mood of your pet. Again, the list of remedies is extensive and custom dosages can be created to suit your dog. These remedies can be found in many vitamin stores.

Homeopathy for dogs aims to aid and stimulate the immune and natural healing processes using small doses of specially prepared, highly diluted remedies. There are numerous remedies available in health food stores and some human pharmacies.

Minerals, Vitamins and Supplements—Along with a healthy diet and ongoing veterinary care, many dog owners supplement their dog's regimen with additional vitamins, joint supplements, pre- and probiotics, and fish and plant oils. These additives may help your beloved pet live a healthier lifestyle.

In conclusion, use of any of these modalities requires research and veterinary approval to be helpful to your pet.



Upcoming Events for Summer

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan to attend these TRG events that will take place this summer!

GREYHOUND HAPPY HOUR at Franktuary, 3810 Butler Street, Lawrenceville (Pittsburgh)



WHEN: Wednesday, June 29th

TIME: 5 pm to 7 pm

WHY: Enjoy some great dogs (franks) and some greyt dogs (greyhounds) with 10% of purchases during that period being donated to our group!

****Greyhounds are permitted in the outdoor dining area; make sure to check the weather before you bring your hound along.**

MAD MEX FUNDRAISER, Robinson Township "BUILD YOUR OWN FAJITA" Party

WHEN: Monday, August 6

TIME: Begins at 7 pm

COST: \$35 per person. Includes chips, salsa, guacamole, salad, wings with your choice of "heat", fajitas, Mexican rice, and all sides. **PLUS** soft drinks, dessert table (sopapillas and Mexican chocolate brownies with toppings). **PLUS** your choice of one margarita OR one beer.



Proceeds raised from the above events will be used for TRG's mission of finding homes for retired racing greyhounds and those greyhounds that did not race.

RECAP GOLF OUTING AT OLDE STONEWALL

NINETY GOLFERS took to the links on May 1st, which started out as a rainy Sunday morning, to play in a golf scramble, and support TRG and greyhound adoption. By the time the golfers teed off at 1:30 pm, the sun was shining bright.



Over **\$8000** was raised to provide needed funding for greyhound adoption and placement.



Golfers were treated to 18 holes at one of our area's most prestigious public courses. Participants also received a cooler as their event giveaway, plus snacks, soda, beer on the course, and a sit-down dinner, as well as various items for raffle. Of course, every golfer was greeted at the turn by really "greyt" greyhounds -- Rummy, Charlotte, Benjamin, and Piper, were awesome ambassadors that day.

Special thanks to event emcee Tom Beeler from the “Tom & Tom Show” on ESPN 970. Also a special thank you to Gary Stone who took pictures at the outing. Please visit Gary’s website here: photo link: <http://bit.ly/1VWMr3D>. Contact Gary Stone via email at: garystonephotography@gmail.com.



Many thanks again to the outing sponsors – Hole In One sponsor Bobby Rahal Motors; Gold sponsors - Workwell Physical Medicine, Inc., J.J. Herbert & Sons, Inc., Secure Money Advisors, Silver sponsor - Fragasso Financial Advisors; Bronze sponsors - Pittsburgh Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center, Susan Stabnau Interiors, Wexford Veterinary Hospital, Shorebridge Wealth Management, and to the Friends of the Hounds – Pittsburgh North Fitness, Domenico's Ristorante, Larry's Laundromutt, TanZar Kennels, & Gene Danko, M.D.

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to event chairperson Lisa Paulson, and her very capable assistant and husband Mark, who began working on the outing and its logistics last December, plus all those volunteers who helped in anyway on the day of the outing or behind the scenes before the outing!

Annual Reunion Goes to the Dogs!!

Thunderclouds and rain did not keep over people and their hounds from enjoying our annual reunion and fundraiser.

The annual Blessing of the Hounds began the festivities. A buffet of delicious food, welcome bags for each family, along with our collar, dog coats and rustic pallet art vendors provided plenty to do for the human species. Raffles and auctions enticed greyhound supporters to part with some ‘green’ to benefit the hounds.



Blessing of the Hounds

The canines in attendance got to participate in greyhound games, (marshmallow catch, dumpster diving – no, not a real dumpster, but searching for hot dog bites in a bin of plastic balls) and even a new one involving their human caretakers. And of course, our

annual “Roo Off” was a vocal success.

Adoptable hounds were showcased, including those that had arrived the previous Saturday via a plane flight from Florida. Three greyhounds potentially met their future adopters, which is the best result of this reunion.



“My hound will eat that” contest

Net proceeds from the reunion totaled \$1215 and will be used to carry out TRG’s mission of finding homes for retired racers or those greyhounds that were unable to race.

Thank you to all who dodged the raindrops and came out to support the greyhounds!



Adoptables hanging out at the reunion!