

News and Roos

From

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

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TWO YEARS AND MOVING FORWARD!

September 15th marks the second anniversary of GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. In our second year, we continued our mission of adopting retired racing greyhounds into homes and spreading the message of what wonderful pets greyhounds make. In two years, our group has processed 74 adoptions of greyhounds.

In the months ahead, if you have time to volunteer or attend one of our events, please do so. Your efforts will be gratefully appreciated by hound and human alike!

Help Make Our Bath-A-Thon Fundraiser A Splashing Success!!

Mark your calendars to attend our Bath-a-Thon on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at TanZar Kennels, Mingo Road in Wexford!

Just a \$20 donation will treat your hound to a bath, brushing and nail trimming by professional groomers. Large short-coated non-greyhounds are welcome, **but no small dogs, please!**

All proceeds from this event will be used for the care and adoption of retired racing greyhounds and those that do not qualify for racing.

There will be greyhounds available for adoption to meet, items for purchase to support greyhound adoption, and of course refreshments for the greyhound lovers!

This is a 'grey' opportunity to socialize and share your favorite hound stories! Hope to see you there!

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

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Help TRG win a \$5000 Pepsi Refresh grant! Vote for us [at this link](#). See p. 5 for more details!

Cats and Greyhounds.....Really?

by
Susy Durso

In most cases, that answer is YES! While not every greyhound is cat safe, many are. When you adopt a greyhound that is cat safe, you need to expect a learning curve from both your greyhound AND your cat. Cat safe does not mean that your grey can walk in your door and be all cuddly with your cat immediately – this process can take a little time.

First...let's remember...greyhounds have never been around other animals. They are raised, socialized and spend their lives around other greyhounds. When they come into an adoption group, each greyhound is tested for cat compatibility. We then determine their capability of residing with a cat. The rest is up to the adopter. This article will look at what to expect and how to handle the unexpected when you bring a greyhound into your cat's home.

If you have a cat, TRG will provide you with a muzzle. The muzzle is instrumental in peace of mind when introducing your new greyhound to your cat. The muzzle will allow your grey to sniff your kitty safely. Remember, sniffing is a way of greeting and getting to know you in the animal world.

Bring your hound into your home and allow your cat to come out on his/her own. Don't force the introduction. I strongly recommend you have a greyhound 'off limits' area for your kitty. We use a baby gate in the hallway, allowing the cats to have the bedroom area as their 'safe haven'. The baby gate is elevated enough to allow the kitties to get underneath it, while keeping the greys out. This way, when each has had enough of the other, they can get away. Monitor the meetings until you feel confident in your hound's interaction with kitty. This could be a few days, or a few weeks. Whatever it takes, you will find it worth the wait!

Your greyhound will be very curious over this new thing called a cat! S/he has never seen one before, and it moves! Sniffing is normal, as is watching the kitty move around. Cats are generally permitted up on things and can jump up/down, which totally catches your grey's attention. Watch your grey's body language. This is critical in your assessment of the situation. Curiosity is not prey drive.

The curious hound will stand tall, wag their tail, ears may or may not be up. The hound will look happy. He may whimper or whine a little. If the interaction starts to be a little tense, or makes you nervous, make a loud noise, such as a sharp 'NO!' or a clap. Use of fly swatter can distract your hound quickly with a little tap on his/her rear end. Many times your cat will take matters into her own paws. A quick hiss, or a swat across the nose is often enough of a deterrent for your hound. Trust me, your cat CAN rule the hound!

Sometimes, your grey will attempt to engage your cat in play. This can come in the form of a pounce, or a front leg 'dance', trying to get your cat to pounce back. My cats don't like to engage, so they just turn and walk away. Other cats will just sit there. Be aware that although your grey is only playing, they are much larger than your cat and can injure the cat unintentionally.

An indoor cat/greyhound interaction is totally different than that of an outdoor cat with a greyhound. Outside, your greyhound will look at your cat as something to chase. Inside, it will consider your cat one of the family. The greyhound will not realize that this cat is the same as it is inside. I do not recommend you let your cat outside with your greyhound.

I currently share my home with 6 greyhounds and 5 cats. I've gone through introductions of greys that were petrified at the sight of a cat, others that didn't care one way or the other. The last hound we brought in showed extreme curiosity. He was never alone with a cat for several days, but we let a natural interaction occur when we were home and able to monitor it. He met several cats with them turning their backs on him. Then Bo met Peaches. Peaches, the greyhound intimidator! She took one hiss, one swipe, and he went flying behind the recliner, shaking in his paws, and had that 'OMG! What

was that?' look on his face! It was actually rather funny on our end! That's when we realized he was completely and totally cat safe!

Peaches is the 'official' cat tester of GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds. She does not care for dogs at all, and lets them know it. But, you would never know that at bedtime. Lina is the only greyhound permitted in our bed at bedtime. She and Peaches are often side by side, or head to head in the bed.

Remember, when you bring home your cat-safe greyhound, you will have to take time to do introductions. You will have to monitor your grey's body language. You will have to watch your cat's moves. If you have any questions, GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds can answer your questions. And yes, cats and greyhounds can happily live together!

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## **HOW THE TRG FAMILY SPENT OUR SUMMER VACATION...**



### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fore! The Hounds Golf Outing**



July 31, 2011 marked the 5<sup>th</sup> time golfers and greyhounds came together for a day of fun on the links.

The weather was a bit too warm and sticky for many of us, but still

30 golfers came out to support the cause. Thankfully the rain stayed away and everyone had a good time.

We had lots of good food, great prizes, and everyone was very generous with their donations. Over \$700 was raised for the greyhounds!

Of course, the superstars of the day, Rosie, Rumkin and Arlo greeted all the golfers, shared a few smiles and relaxed like only greyhounds can.

Next year's event is scheduled for Sunday July 29. Mark your calendars now!

### **Bowling for Greyhounds**

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Bowling for Greyhounds was held on Sunday August 7, 2011 in Greensburg. 31 bowlers had a GREYT time bowling, enjoying refreshments and taking chances on many baskets available in the Chinese auction.



After all the balls had been rolled and the pins knocked down, this fundraiser was a HUGE,

HUGE success, raising over \$550 for the greyhounds!! A big ROOOOOOOOOO to those who came and supported GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds!

Did you miss it this year? If so....mark your calendars early....the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowling for Greyhounds will be held on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

### **Pennsylvania Animal Law Conference**

On July 21, 2011 Sue Yanakos attended the Eighth Annual Animal Law Conference. This conference is attended primarily by attorneys as a continuing education requirement for their profession. Eight animal rescue organizations were present and Sue represented our organization.

Some highlights of the conference included:

- Ms. Sarah Speed, Pa State Director for the Humane Society of the United States gave an update on all bills that have been passed or are pending regarding animal welfare.
- House Bill 67 prohibiting telecast greyhound racing was approved this year. Ann Bradley was instrumental in promoting this bill.
- A session on Fundraising for Animal Welfare Groups was very informative. Information regarding grant writing and fundraising events was presented by Lisa Frenz from Animal Friends. This information will be helpful to our organization as we seek additional sources for our on-going financial needs.



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

*Clipper Bertram*

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What's in a Name?

How is it that your greyhound came by its racing (registered) name?

Greyhounds receive their name from the kennel which owns them. Usually the first part of the name is something that identifies the kennel. Litters of pups often have names that have a common thread to them. For example, Iruska Camry had littermates who included Iruska Celica, Hilander, and Prius. (Can we say Toyota?)

A good number of hounds adopted through Three Rivers Greyhounds have "Iruska" as the first part of their name. Exactly what meaning does "Iruska" have?

The Merriam-Webster dictionary contains the following definition: Iruska --a dance of a fire-handling sacred male society of the Pawnee Indians that is the precursor of the grass dance. The origin of *IRUSKA* is Pawnee meaning "the fire is in me." The Pawnee Indians historically lived along the Platte River in what is now Nebraska.

Having adopted three Iruska hounds, Iruska William, Iruska Rosie, and Iruska Rumkin, I can envision my greyhounds 'with the fire' in them to become swift and speedy racers. And now that these Iruska hounds are retired, I see the 'fire in them' for a long and enjoyable retirement!

~~ Louise Evans



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A special thank you to those individuals and businesses who made donations to Three Rivers Greyhounds recently –

- Lori and Tom Hadden
- TanZar Kennels
- Lou's Barber Shop
- Petco
- Personal Touch Salon
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Birdsfoot Golf Club
- Lakevue North Golf Club

The Pepsi Refresh Challenge - Vote for TRG Daily!

Three Rivers Greyhounds has been selected to be part of the Pepsi Refresh Challenge for September. By logging in and voting daily, you can help TRG receive a \$5000 refresh grant from Pepsi!



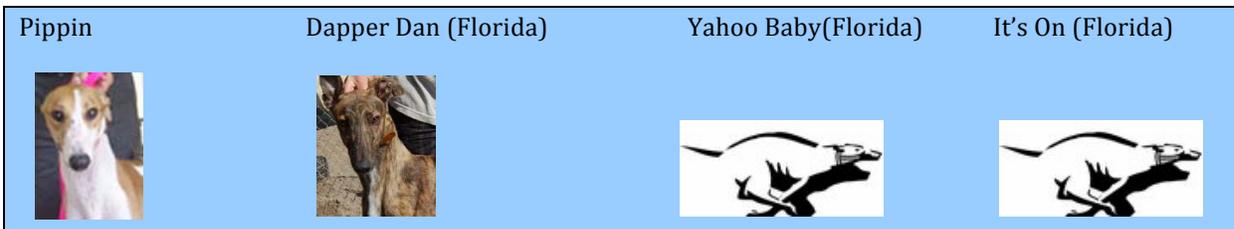
You can vote by logging in on Facebook or establish a 'Pepsi' account at **refresheverything.com**. Look for '**Power Votes**' – they can be found on the inside of bottle caps or on cartons of Pepsi products. They can multiply your vote up to 100 points!

You can go directly from this e-newsletter to vote by clicking [here](#). You can also vote via text-message from any cell phone or you can vote from your smart phone.

Contest ends September 30th so start voting now!

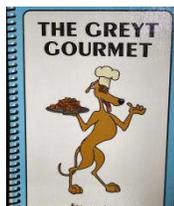
TRG Adoptables Looking for a Forever Home

Check out these wonderful greyhounds that are available for adoption – the 3 Florida hounds will arrive Oct. 22!



Shop Till You Drop at Our Greyhound Store!

Our website now contains an online store with a variety of grey items that will make any lover of hounds happy.



In addition to the t-shirts, sweatshirts, either with a TRG logo or other greyhound graphics, TRG also has available "The Greyt Gourmet", our first cookbook whose proceeds will benefit the Dara

Smiles Fund, which covers medical expenses for our adoptables.

And for those extra sensitive hounds who have anxiety from fireworks, thunderstorms, and other loud noises, we are offering the "Thundershirt". This garment will wrap your hound with a secure hug during those anxious times and is available in greyhound friendly sizes of large and x-large.



Coming to our bath-a-thon on October 2?
Make a shopping list for all your greyhound needs!

Do fawns have more fun?
A Somewhat Scientific Look at Greyhound Colors

What color is your greyhound(s)? When you adopted your hound, were you looking for a specific color? One thing is for sure - greyhounds come in a variety of beautiful colors and patterns.

By taking a quick view into the genetics of canine coloring, we can better understand the world of greyhound colors.

The wide variety of greyhound colors is a result of greyhounds being bred and selected for speed and not color. Because no color was a bad color, colors were not eliminated from the gene pool. And because the greyhound breed is an ancient one, many colors were introduced into the gene pool. The only dog colors absent are merle (think Australian Shepherd) and black and tan (think German Shepherd).

Every canine is born with seventy-eight pairs of chromosomes that determine what breed it becomes and with each pair of chromosomes, one is received from the sire(male) and one from the dam(female). Coat color is controlled by pairs of genes located in eight different locations along the chromosomes. And within each pair of genes could be both dominant and recessive traits. What is confusing sometimes is that genetic color (the color that is determined by the genes) sometimes differs from how we describe the dog's appearance or coloring.

Genetically, all greyhounds are one of two basic colors: black or sable red. Sabling is an overlay of black guard hairs over a red coat, and one can see this sabling in greyhounds on the edges of ears and eyebrows.

Now all greyhounds are genetically either brindle or non-brindle. The dominant gene is for the brindle color. If a hound receives the brindle gene from both parents, it will be more heavily striped. There are pairs of recessive genes that modify the basic black, sable red or red brindle colors. A 'blue' dilution changes black hair color and pigment to blue (dark grey). There are also recessive genes responsible for white spotting. Irish spotting produces a hound with a white chest and neck ring and possibly white front legs.

Interestingly, newborn greyhound colors are often very different from their adult color and appearance. The only two colors that don't change from puppy to adult hound are black and solid white. Pups that are identified as blue fawns will change to a rose grey color.

With so many genes and possible combinations, it's a good thing momma dogs don't distinguish by color and say "you don't look like me or Dad!" Where else would you see so many different colored pups born to the same momma? If you are really interested in trying to see what gene combinations might be at work in your hound's coloring, you can go to the greyhound database and trace back the coloring of your hound's ancestors and offspring.

-- Acknowledgement to Patricia Gail Burnham "Rainbow Colors—Rainbow Greyhounds", published in Celebrating Greyhounds, Spring 1999.

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!