

# News and Roos

from  
**Three Rivers Greyhounds**

October 2018

Issue #29



*2018 is "the Year of the Dog"*

**2018 is the "Year of The Dog" according to the Chinese zodiac.** A Dog's most defining characteristic is their loyalty. They will never abandon their friends, family or work.



The board of Three Rivers Greyhounds would like to thank all those volunteers and individuals who continue to show their loyalty to our mission of adopting retired racing greyhounds. And especially to those who attended the 2018 Annual Rock n' Roos Reunion which was held May 20th at A.W. Beattie Career Center.

There was greyt food for all, fantastic raffle baskets and awesome vendors. And we were able to have four adoptable greyhounds at the reunion. Greyhounds (and humans) of all ages were there, and much fun was had by the greyhounds an families participating in the greyhound games.

We want to say a greyt big THANK YOU to all who donated, attended and volunteered in anyway.

*~ The TRG Board*

## *In this Issue ----*

<i>Meet/Greets</i>	<i>pg.2</i>
<i>Recent Events</i>	<i>pg.3</i>
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	<i>pg.3</i>
<i>Rainbow Bridge</i>	<i>p.4</i>
<i>Greyhound Family</i>	<i>p4-6</i>
<i>Labor of Love</i>	<i>p.7</i>



## TRG Board

Ruth Scheller – President  
Kyle Catanzarite – Vice President  
Sue Yanakos – Treasurer  
Louise Evans – Secretary  
Beverly Stulen – Director

Maryann Flot –Volunteer Coordinator  
Kim Kochera – Fundraising Coordinator

[info@gpatrg.org](mailto:info@gpatrg.org)

Three Rivers Greyhounds is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Your contribution to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2018 will be fully tax deductible and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit the greyhounds.

## *The Importance of Meet and Greets*

How many greyhound adopters have had their first introduction to a retired racer at a meet and greet (M&G) venue?

Often, a chance meeting with a greyhound is all that is needed to put an individual or family on the road to opening their home to a retired racing greyhound. There are many things that might attract an adopter – the hound's beauty, their laid back personality or that greyhound 'lean'.

TRG continues to explore new venues and to support already established venues introducing the public to the world of greyhound adoption. At M&G's, literature, handouts and questions are answered by knowledgeable volunteers who have had greyhounds in their homes. Sharing 'insider information' in person with the public about what special family members greyhounds make is invaluable.



The most obvious M&G venue is a pet supply store, and TRG has monthly appearances at different stores throughout the Western Pennsylvania area. These include but are not limited to Petco, PetValu, PetsMart. Pet-friendly people frequent the stores and are generous in donations, and sometimes an adoption results from meeting the greyhounds. We say that our greyhounds are the most important ambassadors for adoption of retired racers. Seeing an adopted greyhound demonstrates the easy transition that greyhounds make from track to couch.



Venues or events that are not tailored to animal adoption are very important too. Recently, TRG greyhounds and their human adopters have been to a winery, Pittsburgh Marketplace Night, and the Latrobe Banana Fest. The hounds are happy to oblige with strangers petting them, and especially getting up close with children of all ages. Information is gladly dispensed, and interested people are directed to our website ([www.gpatrg.org](http://www.gpatrg.org)) for additional information and adoption procedures. The donation vests that greyhounds don quickly fill up with crisp bills of differing denominations which helps keep TRG's adoption fees constant.



Larger multi-day events targeting many animal groups also help us spread the message of retired racing greyhound adoption. The purpose of TRG's participation in these events is to further understanding of the retired racers' needs for a forever home. Many misconceptions about the breed are dispelled—they need lots of exercise, they are hyper, they eat a lot or can't live with cats.

Recently, the availability of retired racers has been somewhat limited. However, TRG officers, and volunteers recognize the need for spreading the word and to continue our M&Gs so that any hound needing a home might find one with our group or any of the other adoption groups nationwide.

## *Recent Fundraising Events*

TRG held the following events and fundraising results were as follows:

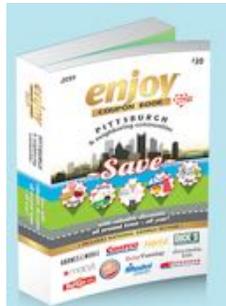
- ✓ Annual Rock n' Roos Reunion, May 19 – Over 100 people and their hounds attended, and total proceeds after expenses were \$1956.60. This event was held at A.W. Beatty Career Center in Allison Park.
- ✓ Mad Mex fundraiser, Robinson Township, August 21 – \$1,129 in proceeds.
- ✓ Banana Fest, Latrobe -- \$225
- ✓ PetValue Paws Program -- \$1,204

CHECK YOUR EMAIL OR FACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS  
AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE EVENT!

*More Events Planned to benefit TRG in the coming months!*



- ◆ *Enjoy coupon books (more information coming soon!)*
- ◆ *Painting With A Twist, February 24, 2019*
- ◆ *TRG Rock n' Roos Reunion, May 21, 2019*



Do you have an interesting or unique fundraising idea/venue that might be a good fit for Three Rivers Greyhounds? As a small group, not every fundraiser is a good fit for TRG. so if you are able to take the lead on an event, that would be greyt. Please contact us at [info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org](mailto:info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org)

*Thank you to those that have sponsored greyhounds on the TRG website.*

Diane & Paul Passantino , sponsorship of 2 hounds

*Remembering those TRG Hounds that have crossed the Bridge ...*

Tiamo Losego  
Sophie Scheller  
Hannah Smith  
Pepper Smith  
Louie Peters  
Dutch Smocer

Mimi Frank  
Stella Akenhead  
Cole Evans  
Brandy Evans  
Tucker Paulson  
Abby Reetz

Ruby Manzi  
Callie Kenny  
Bang Barret



*Greyhounds have the ability to inspire and 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.*

*~~Anonymous*

### *How Greyhounds Raced Into My Life*

By Jim Evans

In 1998, while walking through the Greater Pittsburgh Airport, I saw a poster of the National Greyhound Adoption Program (NGAP) in Philadelphia, PA, suggesting Greyhound adoption. That was at a period of my life when I had recently lost two dogs that I raised from pups.

I recognized a void in my life and found the message of the poster very appealing. I was a 'jogger/runner' and felt an instant identification with the idea of having racing dogs as running mates. I stopped at a pay phone in the airport and called the number given on the poster. After leaving my name and phone number on an answering machine at NGAP, I proceeded on my journey, excitedly anticipating the possibility of owning Greyhounds!

I made an immediate decision that I would adopt two Greyhounds so they would have company when I was at work. Two months later, I drove to the airport to pick-up Buddy and Angel. Buddy and Angel were my new names for them to replace their racing names which are names appearing on a racing program and not a name they know.

That day was the beginning of a relationship between 'dog and man' that has been/is rewarding in many ways. A few months after I obtained Buddy and Angel, I met a person, while running with my Greys, who had adopted a Greyhound but could not keep her because of living arrangements. So, a few days later I became the proud owner of Star.

They were a terrific trio. We lived in a small house with an acre yard which I fenced-in for them. We traveled many places together (including regular jogging) and eventually moved to Savannah, GA, because of employment circumstances. After 6 months in GA, we moved back to PA and settled in Mercer County. This time it was a 4 acre lot which I enclosed with a fence. After installing a doggy door into the house, they had full access to the property and their 'retirement haven.' Unfortunately, I lost Angel 2 years later to a speeding motorist on my road and it brought significant grief and loss.

I was considering adopting additional Greys from NGAP when my cousin, who lives in Pittsburgh, came across the website of a local Greyhound adoption group and notified me. This is when I met Kyle Catanzarite and began expanding my Grey adoptions.

In a short time, I became the proud owner of Pal, a champion AA racer from Wheeling who broke his leg during a race. He presented a new challenge to me for jogging/running. Wow, was he fast and powerful! In my view, he could still have won Greyhound races! A few weeks later, Kyle "encouraged me" to add Patsy to my life who was the first senior I adopted. What a treat Patsy was. She became a runner with the "Gang" in our 3- 5 mile run a few times each week. She forgot about her age and 'senior' status.

So let's see, what was the count now? Oh, I forgot that shortly before Patsy, I adopted Daisy, a 6 month old Beagle! She DID NOT know that she was little! The Gang accepted her immediately and they became inseparable. She ran with the Gang and was the 'distance runner' while the Greys were "sprinters."

I soon realized that Daisy needed a more suitable playmate (size and age). I let Kyle know that I would love to have a Greyhound puppy. I knew of her puppy Cole and was jealous! Kyle got back to me in a short time with the opportunity to get Dolly, a 2 month old Greyhound from Florida who was the result of an accidental breeding on a Greyhound farm. Dolly joined the Gang. What a joy. Rowdy! Mischievous! Over-active! Playful! Dolly and Daisy became the Mutt & Jeff of my GREYT Gang.

Well then, was my crew complete? Not really! "Guess Who" contacted me a short while later, inquiring if I would consider fostering 'Pean the Dream,' another senior who had been returned by two prospective owners. Who could lay such a name on a Greyhound? If for no other reason than to change her name, I HAD to take Pean who was renamed "Peaches"?

All right now, who has been paying attention? What is the count? You should know that I have been accused of being 'nuts . . . crazy. . . goofy . . . but NOT by Greyhound and other dog lovers.

For a time, I considered opening my own Greyhound Kennel in Mercer, PA and considered many different naming possibilities! Greyhound Retirement Retreat..... Greyhound Safe Haven... Greyhound Bed ' N Breakfast.....Greyhound Play Station.

Subsequently, I added Christian and Anubis, Galgos from Spain, in addition to Chemoney, and Starbud for a total of 11 Greys since 1998. Sadly, I lost 6 via deaths and gave Starbud to a Greyhound lover who lost her Grey.

After having the privilege of providing a forever home for 11 Greys, 2 Beagles, and 5 cats at that time, I decided to make room for one more Grey in my life and to share my life with him/her and reap the joy of the reciprocal relationship

I saw Cole on the Three Rivers Greyhounds website, was taken by his color since I never had a white brindle and I contacted Kyle during mid-October 2013 to ask if he was still available for adoption. Kyle's response was "Sure is!"

So I excitedly picked up Cole and began our bonding during the long ride to his new home in Mercer County. For the next three days, Cole began to mesh with Anubis and Daisy, began to learn the routine of the house and large fenced-in yard, found his comfortable spot for sleeping, learned to walk and jog with The Gang, and began adjusting to all the never-before-heard noises, objects, and behaviors.

However, that Greyt beginning radically changed when, playing in the yard with Anubis, Cole's left rear hock broke, actually shattering into five pieces as later found out. I was close by and as I ran to him, he was limping and pacing in obvious pain. I carried Cole to the car with him panicky and in pain and took him to my vet. Thus began a four month period of surgery at PVSEC, TLC, 24/7 care and several trips to the surgeons.

The next chapter of my Grey Gang began during June 2014 when I was contacted by Ruth Scheller inquiring if I would be interested in adopting two litter-mate sisters, Bling and Bandi. Three Rivers Greyhounds did not want to separate the sisters since they had been together their entire lives as littermates, racers and breeding mothers. Well, Ruth touched a soft spot in my Grey heart and I agreed. So, in July 2014 Bing and Brandy joined my new Gang of Cole, Daisy, Bing and Brandy. Their arrival put my total Grey number at 14.

As I write this story, I am in a period of grieving over the loss of three members of my Gang within the past three months: Bing suddenly developed renal failure and was euthanized in January 2018. Cole died unexpectedly in April for an unknown reason while I was at a store shopping. Daisy the Beagle, was euthanized in April after a malignant tumor on her side became so large and invasive that her quality of life was compromised.

At present, my one remaining Gang member, Brandy, is with me. She is fighting a newly diagnosed condition called Protein Losing Enteropathy (PLE), a disease of the small intestines. Hopefully, treatment with medication will be successful.

This is my story. If I did not have Greyhounds Race Into My Life, I would have missed the fantastic life experience of living among my marvelous, loving, beautiful animals: my gang of Greyhounds and of course, Daisy. I will leave you with this thought. ADOPT RACING GREYHOUNDS! They will change your life for the better, forever!

Gratefully,  
Jim Evans  
April 2018

UPDATE: Sadly, Jim's last remaining greyhound Brandy went to the Rainbow Bridge in June. She is there frolicking with the rest of Jim's pack, happy and pain-free.

## *A LABOR OF LOVE*

Like many others in the adoption community, I am sometimes asked by family or friends – “why?” “Why do you spend so much time and energy doing this, isn’t there someone else who can handle it?”

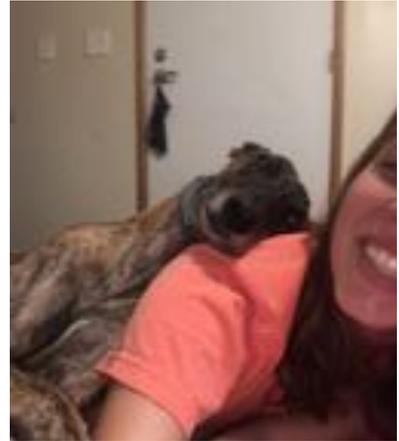
The answer is simple. Of course I could always ask someone else to do any number of things; but everyone else who shares this passion is already giving their all to the cause. As long as there are greyhounds needing homes, there will be people like us who will do everything we can to make that happen.

Some days are truly frustrating, those days when a potential adopter refuses to see the wonderful dog in front of them simply because they are fixated on a particular color. Other days are absolutely heart wrenching, when a dog you’ve helped place grows old and crosses the bridge; it hurts as much as losing your own beloved pet.

But most days, it’s the most rewarding thing you’ll ever do. Those days are what keeps you going, what helps you let go of the bad days that make you want to throw in the towel.

When you know with certainty that you’ve made a difference in a greyhound’s life; when you’ve helped to make that perfect match between greyhound and human; when you see the look of absolute joy and love on the faces of both - that is why we do what we do.

In the simplest terms - this picture says it all.



*~Ruth Scheller*

~~~~~

### *Greyhound Terminology*

Have you ever had trouble explaining or not knowing why your greyhound does certain behaviors? Add these to your knowledge bank for future reference. (Not sure that Webster’s Dictionary has these terms as alternate definitions.)

**Chattering:** The teeth chattering that Greyhounds do when they get excited. It often looks like they are cold or scared. They literally vibrate with excitement. They are just letting you know that they are so happy to see you!

**Nitting:** A sign of affection. The hound’s tiny front teeth are moved in a fast chomping motion against the beloved’s skin. Varies from adorable to excruciating and similar to wolf behavior.

**Scratch:** This is a Greyhound scratch usually behind the ear or at the base of the tail. Best done in short fast furious strokes. If you hit just the right spot you may get to see that involuntary hind leg spasm or soft moan of enjoyment from your hound.

