

Greyhound Pipeline Express



The leaves are bursting with colour as they fall from the trees. Warm days and chilly nights just right for cuddling Hounds in their sweater gear.

Summer is drawing to a close for 2015.

Now we can take the time to relax and reflect on the amazing summer that was enjoyed by all before we begin the hectic Holiday season and all the merriment that will be had.

To try and capture the flavour of the activities over the summer this issue is highlighting stories from all contributing groups, in our greyhound community circle. It's all about sharing the joy of the events that were hosted and appreciated by all those able to attend. There was so much to choose from and so much excitement we just had to tell you all about it.

In addition a very talented group of willing writers volunteered to provide their own versions from their perspective of the 2015 Kennels to Couches Conference at Oglebay Resort in West Virginia which was a Rooring success again this year.

The GT&A also hosted a very successful Wine Social this past September at a new host winery for us – Ridgeroad Estates in Hamilton. Read all about it. It was awesome!

Next up is the Santa Claus Parade in Weston and we are in the planning stages for another delectable "Wing Fling" more to come as this develops.

So sit back, grab your favorite warm drink and enjoy.

As always your comments and thoughts are most welcome.

At any time should you wish to be removed from this mailing list please drop me a line.

Yours truly,

Pamela Cramp,

Publisher

p.cramp@yahoo.ca



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Upcoming Events

November 28, 2015

7th Annual Christmas Luncheon
 Hosted by After the Track
SOLD OUT!
 Whitby, Ontario

November 29, 2015

Weston Santa Claus Parade
 1:00 pm
 Visit Facebook for details!

May 13 - 15, 2016

Greyhound Event of Michigan
 Hosted by GEM
 Watch for Details

August 5 - 7, 2016

GREYT ESCAPE
 Oglebay Resort and Conference Centre
 Wheeling, WV
 Details to come!

GHI Open House

Shared Post by Suzie Collins

"We had a fabulous turnout in Columbus for The Greyhound Health Initiative Open House at Riverside Drive Animal Care Center! 30 greyhounds got free physical exams, blood work and were heart worm tested!

We hope to sign up some of those greyhounds for our, soon to be opened, blood bank! Dr. Couto gave an informative and interesting presentation and product sales to raise funds for GHI were a success!

Thank you to all who attended and brought their greyhounds!

A big thank you to the staff at Riverside that donated their time on a Sunday afternoon to help make this event happen!"





Blood Donor Program

70% OF GREYHOUNDS
HAVE A BLOOD TYPE
THAT MAKES THEM
SIMILAR TO HUMAN
UNIVERSAL DONORS!

DONOR BENEFITS (proposed)

- A ROUTINE PHYSICAL EXAM;
- A COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT (CBC);
- CHEMISTRY PROFILE;
- SEROLOGICAL TEST FOR HEARTWORM DISEASE AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES;
- FREE BLOOD PRODUCTS FOR LIFE
- THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU ARE SAVING ANOTHER DOG'S LIFE;
- WE ARE WORKING ON MORE BENEFITS!



DR. GUILLERMO COUTO, DVM, PRESIDENT

Why do we need canine blood?

Just like human doctors, veterinarians have to respond to emergency situations and illnesses where blood products can make the difference between life and death.

Why do we want your Greyhound to be a donor?

Greyhounds are unusual in that up to 70% of them have a blood type that makes them like human universal donors which allows their blood to be used in all other dogs. Greyhound blood has additional advantages of being unusually rich in red blood cells, along with having lower than average white blood cells and platelets. But not all Greyhounds can be donors (see Eligibility below), can yours?

Is it safe?

YES! If you've ever donated blood yourself, then you know there's little more than a pinch when the needle goes in. As in humans, no sedation is necessary and the Greyhounds' large veins and calm demeanor make them perfect for this procedure, which only takes about 10 minutes. They will stand or lie down while allowing the needle to draw a pint of blood from their jugular vein without flinching (some have even been known to fall asleep and *roach* while donating!). These hounds can safely donate every three weeks, but we won't collect their blood more than six times per year. AND your hound will benefit from all of the (free) exams at each donation (see list of benefits at left).

What are the eligibility requirements?

Your hound must be between 1 and 6 years old, weigh at least 55 lbs., be healthy, friendly, and be available to donate six times per year. We also require that your hound be on heartworm and flea & tick preventatives year round.

Call us at 614-526-8429 or check out our website for details on how to become a donor.

THE GREYHOUND HEALTH INITIATIVE

P.O. BOX 396 | AVON, OH 44011 | 614-526-8429

GreyhoundHealthInitiative.org

The Greyhound Health Initiative is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (ID# 46-4856918)



In the Community

The GT & A at work with the Greyhound Community

Because you asked – One of the many things the GT & A does is collect, coordinate and donate to meet the needs of the hounds, a priority and support the hard working groups to achieve their goals.

Back in June/July we received communication from a private donor of Blankets, Towels, Treats, Toys, Collars and Leashes that has allowed us to support the efforts of the following groups:

New Hamburg Vet Clinic
Waterloo Wellington Cat Rescue Society
Loyal Rescue
G.R.A.C.E
GPA Wheeling
After the Track
Greyhound Supporters
Carlota Galgos Rescue Canada
Galgo 112 Spain
Dog Tales Rescue & Sanctuary
Signature Greyhound Farm
GPA Daytona Greyhound
Velocity Greyhound Kennel
Allies for Greyhounds



Greyt Escape: Overview

By Jennifer Cormier

Admittedly, I have trouble putting on paper an overview of this event. There is a whole host of emotions, feelings, and visuals involved that just cannot be captured in writing. I guess it would help if I start from the beginning. I have been a greyhound mom for nearly 12 years. Until 15 years ago, I didn't even know these dogs existed in real life.

When I first discovered this wonderful breed of dog, who would not trigger my allergies and would satisfy my desire for a large dog as a pet without an excess of hair or fur, I was elated. I had no idea the journey I was about to partake. I researched, studied, and learned everything I could before my first ever graced my home. When he finally joined my home after months and months of eager anticipation, the door was opened. I was flooded with this huge community of like-minded greyhound people. I could not believe the scope involved, nor the passion that fueled each of us. It was like seeing the world for the first time.

I started small; attending local group picnics, and greyhound-only dog runs. Then it started to bloom... With the enthusiasm and backing of several other families, we began a monthly walk in London (which persists to this day! I am proud to say). I was then volunteering twice a week at the local kennel and it was not long after that I was coordinating the fundraising efforts for that group. I felt like I had found a niche that was necessary and I was making a difference to the community.

I believe it was 2006 or 2007 when I attended the first Ohio State University Greyhound Wellness Conference. I admit that I'm a bit of an education sponge. So this opportunity was not only a chance to gather with other greyhound folk but also to learn more about our dogs. It was here that I met Dr. Guillermo Couto. I was star struck. This amazing, personable, intelligent man stood at the front of the group and talked about the medical differences of greyhounds. I attended this conference for every year afterwards while it was still available. I could not get enough.

But then we learned that OSU was no longer going to offer the Wellness Conference. Costs were too high. It was a crushing blow. How could they take away such a valuable experience?!

We felt that this was not something to let go. We had to continue to offer something educational to keep Greyhound people in the know. There are plenty of vending events that already existed so we recognized that this was not a need to be filled. Instead, we needed to provide that educational experience. Thus, Greyt Escape was born!

The first year was small scale. We had around 45 attendees. This was my first time visiting a greyhound track and we were welcomed at a couple of local puppy farms.

Second year grew by nearly double. We had to expand our offerings in order to accommodate everyone's needs, and so we also began offering the puppy farm tours. It was clear we were quickly outgrowing what Wheeling Island could offer for Conference space!

Continued...

Overview continued...

This year was another huge success! We saw hundreds of attendees and their hounds. Our venue was the scenic Oglebay Resort and Conference Centre on Friday and Saturday, followed by events at the Race Track on Sunday. The staff at Oglebay were amazing and put on a great show for us. They went above and beyond to ensure our event ran smoothly and we received top service. This effort was certainly appreciated on all levels.

Friday night saw a large crowd for the Greyhound Health Initiative Gala Dinner. It was well attended and we had a very lively and entertaining live auction following our meal. Dr. Couto gave an overview of GHI and spoke about new studies in greyhound health.

Saturday featured our Vendor Marketplace with more than thirty vendors manning almost forty booths. The Gleesner Auditorium was packed! We had folks from all over, including Oglebay's Lodge Guests who ventured into the auditorium for a peek at our event.

Our top notch speakers were nothing short of amazing. I regret that I was not able to view any of the formal speeches, but I met each of them in the lobby and was fortunate enough to spend a bit of extra time with both Dr. Couto and Lee Livingood after the event closed. These are two truly amazing people. If you missed either of them speaking, make it something on your bucket list. You will not be disappointed! Sunday was held at the Wheeling Island Greyhound Racetrack and the onsite Adoption Kennel. We were given a special tour of the Racing Facilities, which is not normally open to the public, for those who were interested in the racing side. At the same time, we held three puppy farm tours so people could experience the full lifecycle of our companions. You could tell those who just returned from holding a pup, their smiles could not get any larger.

Throughout the weekend, we had a peppering of other small events. The Whine and bROO was a hit with early arriving guests. There was a movie night held at the Observatory, an ice cream social, and greyhound walk. We made sure to offer something for everyone.

So as we are starting down the road of planning for 2016, I am left with a satisfied feeling that we are on the right path: providing a full and comprehensive glimpse into the lives of our wonderful companions and knowing that people are eager to return each year. Sorry, I'm not about to reveal any teasers for next year.

You will just have to wait, watch and see as planning details are released.

See you next year!



Whine and bRoo Pub Nite

The "Whine and bROO" Pub Night during the Greyt Escape 2015

Shared by Donna Deskin

The League of Extraordinary Greyhounds (T-Legs) hosted a "Whine and bROO" Pub Night the Thursday before the Greyt Escape event.

It was held in the Edelweiss Cottage at the Oglebay Resort.

Not only were there reds, whites and broos available, there was great food and a fun filled evening for all.



Honky pigs, Mother Bunnies, Joe's TKO martingale collars and more were up for pre-sale before the shopping crowds on Friday and Saturday.

PLUS there was a raffle, featuring some T-Legs swag and the grand prize an almost 3-foot high white greyhound statue!

Open to all greyhounds and their peeps, a greyt time was had by all!

We're looking forward to hosting this event again in 2016!



Greyhound Health Initiative Gala Dinner

Shared by Brian Collins



"Wow. Just... Wow." I don't remember exactly who said it, but we were all feeling it. Several of us from The Greyhound Health Initiative (GHI) were sharing a cabin at this year's Greyt Escape: Kennels to Kouches and, despite our exhaustion, we were all just too excited to sleep. It had been a really busy Friday culminating in the Gala Dinner.

The Greyt Escape is always a fun event with lots of informative (and entertaining) speakers and I am almost as amazed at all of the hard work the members of The Greyhound Trust and Alliance put into this event as I am honored to be the recipient of those efforts. But this year was different, bigger somehow, possibly because this was the 1st anniversary of getting our 501(c)3 status. Possibly because Janet Shaffer presented GHI with a check for \$11,500 from the Hope for Hounds foundation to start the evening off. There were other reasons, too... GHI again had a table where supporters could purchase T-shirts, talk to our leadership and, new this year, ask about membership.

We had a representative from Embrace pet health insurance, one of the premier sponsors of the event, answering questions about the discounts our members get (I've got to be honest, it feels awesome to be able to offer that!). Also new this year was the live auction during our Gala Dinner. The dinner itself was a nice break in an otherwise hectic day for all of us. I was seated at the same table as Dr.'s Bohenko and Couto and it's always entertaining (and educational) when they start talking shop. To add to the entertainment factor, we found out just as we were sitting down to dinner that Dr. Bohenko's daughter, who had started working at Oglebay that summer, would be working as a server in her first banquet. By no small coincidence she ended up assigned to our table, something I think Dr. Bohenko secretly enjoyed immensely. The food was great, the service was flawless (something I know Dr. Bohenko enjoyed immensely, beaming with motherly pride) and all of our dinner guests were nothing short of fantastic.

During dinner I tried to get around to different tables where I thoroughly enjoyed conversations with people from all over North America. Everyone I talked to was so friendly and so very appreciative of GHI's mission that it was completely overwhelming. By the time dinner was done and the auction was beginning I was already losing my voice from talking so much and losing feeling in my face from smiling so much. This night was off to a greyt start and I knew it would only get better! We had a bunch of fantastic items donated for the auction ranging from books to jewelry, from paintings to authentic racing slips and so much more. Continued next page.



Gala Dinner continued...



This was our big night. We were all a little nervous, but we were prepared. All of the items we tagged and cataloged. We all had our parts to play. We had a great auctioneer in Blair Adams. Tina Kelly was prepping the auction items. Janet Shaffer (also a member of GHI's board) was going to play "Vanna White" and show the items around the room. And all I had to do was help Blair call out each new bid and track who won each item. But how it all unfolded could only be described as controlled chaos. We were missing one key item, something so

crucial to auctions that it was comical that we had overlooked it. We forgot bidding paddles. "Not a big deal," I thought, "We can just wing it." But I was wrong. I was so wrong. I was not prepared for the exuberance of the bidding! And because we hadn't preregistered with paddles, I had to run around to capture basic information for each winner as each item was won, usually missing the beginning of the bidding for the next item - something that would inevitably cause my team to have to cover for me and poke fun about me for "not being able to do my one job" (they really did seem to be enjoying it). It must have been comical to see - me running around trying to keep track of bids and bidders while my own team was chastising me for not paying attention. It wasn't a huge crowd, but we ended up needing 3 people to watch for raised hands. I think the comedic energy was electric as even the crowd was getting into it by "yelling" at Blair when someone's hand went unnoticed. Everything we brought up went for more than \$100, most items went north of \$200. For the final item of the night we had two authentic winter turn-out coats from the Wheeling track — but we only told the crowd about one of them. Bidding went quickly over one hundred dollars for the first coat. It came down to two people. They kept bidding each other up. Finally, when one bowed out and a winner emerged, we brought out the 2nd coat. I announced that we would offer the coat to the runner up for their last bid. More electricity. Maybe it was just a cheap gimmick, but everyone was surprised, especially the runner up. Then we got a surprise: the winner of the first coat doubled their original bid for both coats. Wow. We didn't know it, but we were quickly in for another, greater surprise.

Next we held the 50/50 drawing for \$630. But when Jim McNamee's name was drawn, he just handed the money right back! Now, I like to think that I would do the same thing, should I ever win a 50/50 raffle, but that takes something really special to be handed \$650 in cash and then donate it right back. It felt like an exclamation point on the end of the night. The room was abuzz as we settled up with the winning bidders and, as the last of the attendees slipped off to their cabins and the catering crew were cleaning up, we just kind of sat there and looked at each other.

All told we had raised almost \$15,000 that night... Fifteen thousand dollars that will be used to help the hounds. The night had been an unquestionable success. Back in the cabin after midnight we were still talking about the events of the night, about how "greyhound people" are the best and marveling at why anything they do still surprises us. Exhausted but too excited to sleep, we sat there in silence for a moment.

"Wow. Just... Wow."



Vendor Open Marketplace

Greyt Escape 2015 Wheeling W.V.

Greyt Escape 2015, was held at the beautiful Oglebay Resort in Wheeling W.V. I was given the pleasure of chairing the vending show portion of the event. It was held in Glessner Auditorium, over a 2 day period. Friday was a half day, to get "our feet wet"! Saturday we kicked off early with over 30 vendors, in almost 40 booths. We were pleased to have 10 states in the U.S., and 2 metropolitan areas from Canada represented.

The Auditorium looked amazing! Gifts, and accessories of all sorts for furkids and humans. Beautiful artwork, local organic honey, and more decals than I have ever seen. Hand knitted snoods, jewelry, and clothes for all, wonderful household items, in addition to a greyt selection of collars. It was truly a beautiful sight.

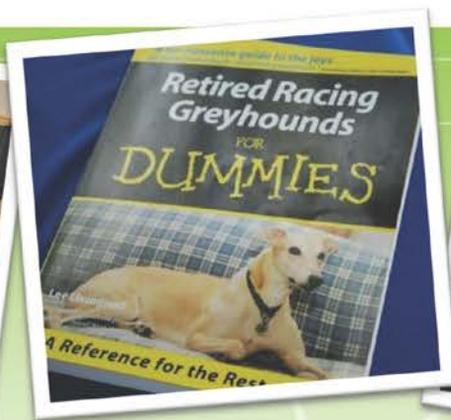
The Oglebay staff were also part of this successful event. I want to thank Deb Jones and Debbie Donley. They provided answers when needed, and polite and friendly staff to assist us.

And there were hugs all around. Old friends excited to see each other, and plenty of new friendships were started. We all agreed there are no better folks than us Sighthound people ;-)

Hope to see you again next summer,
Carol ~

Carol Kessler
carolen@cinci.rr.com
<https://www.facebook.com/carol.d.kessler>





Greyt Escape 2015 Presents: LEE LIVINGOOD Unleashed

What a wonderful day spent learning about how we behave around our hounds. Yes – how humans interact with our own greyhounds and what our hounds are thinking!

As the “Dummies” in this scenario, we got to see it for ourselves at this year’s Greyt Escape thanks to Lee Livingood, the author of “Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies” and her assistants, Nancy, Goldie and Lightening.

There is no rushing this process, no magic wand for desired behaviours. Greyhounds learn whether we ‘teach’ them or not. And at this year’s workshop, we learnt how to take advantage of these moments of learning and to back them up with structure and consistency for the hounds in our lives, to thrive.

Greyhounds learn through individual visual “Kodak” moments, Lee explained. Some of these learning “snap shots” can reinforce positive behaviours or begin negative ones. Lee took us through a series of training tips and exercises to identify these learning opportunities that set us ALL up for success!

Everyone has different time constraints, levels of expertise and priorities and as we all know, Greyhound’s are a very ‘easy-going’ breed, so we don’t usually worry too much about adverse behaviours. But they can develop and Lee took us through some predominate issues with practical advice. So don’t wait for a problem to develop. If you need further support contact a canine companion behaviourist right away.

For more info about Lee’s “Running with the Big Dogs” on-line resources, go to:

www.retiredracinggreyhounds.com

Food for Thought

If you “like it”, you need to “reward it” and if you don’t, you need to ignore it or find something else that’s even MORE wanted. Our hounds have figured all this out so we just need to remember:

- Keep it Simple
- Keep it Short
- Keep it Sweet
- And most of all ...HAVE FUN!



A Very Greyhound Weekend in Wheeling

Presented by Greyhounds Rock Fredericksburg – Connie Hilker

Settle in and get comfortable, because this is an epic story ... one in which I will tell you about all about the fun stuff that the three core members of Greyhounds Rock Fredericksburg and our husbands experienced at the Greyt Escape Kennels to Kouches gathering in Wheeling, West Virginia. We were very excited about this event and its activities, which were all about greyhound health and lifestyle.



Friday was all about traveling to get to the event. It takes six hours to drive from our home in Hartwood, Virginia, to Wheeling. It's a beautiful drive north and westward through the mountains of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and far northern West Virginia. We left home in cool, foggy, rainy weather, and drove into sunshine as we crossed over the Cumberland Gap.

The six of us stayed in a dog-friendly cabin at the event resort, Oglebay Resort and Conference Center. There was no mistaking whose cabin this was, with that big Greyhounds Rock banner outside.

Our friends brought their dogs along. All of the dogs are seasoned travelers, and they quickly settled into the routine ... lots of lounging and sleeping. Taylor Rose is the senior member of the group, at age 14.



A Very Greyhound Weekend continued...

Oscar, the black hound on the left, is 9, and Garrett, age 2, is the newest member of the pack. My dogs, Winnie and Ruby, spent their



weekend at my parents' house, lounging on the sofa and being spoiled rotten.

The resort has a very large population of deer, most of whom are tame as housecats. There are no predators for them to fear, and these deer have become conditioned to see humans and cars as a source of snacks. (Not from us, you understand.) They were ever present, gathering in fields and yards and on the roads throughout the resort.

Saturday was the core of the conference, with presentations by greyhound and health professionals, and a wonderful vendor market. Greyhounds Rock had a booth in the market, selling our collars, leashes, jewelry, and other things. This event marked the debut of our children's book, *TJ Has a Job!*, written by GRF's own Kim Fraser, and illustrated by Steve



Hilker. (*TJ Has a Job!* is available to order on Amazon) Business was brisk, and sales were good ... all proceeds from which are donated to support canine cancer research.

A Very Greyhound Weekend continued...

Saturday night, Greyhounds Rock presented an outdoor movie night for event attendees. Guests were treated to an evening of greyhound-themed features, beginning with the 1949 Bugs Bunny cartoon, "The Greyhounded Hare", followed by a double-feature ... "Mrs. Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter" (from 1968, starring Peter Noone and Herman's Hermits) and "Greta the Misfit Greyhound" (a 1963 episode of The Wonderful World of Disney).

Sunday was all about greyhounds and their first career in the races. We began the day with a rare treat ... a visit to a greyhound farm, a small operation where greyhounds are born, raised, and begin their training to race. The farm that we visited had an extra special surprise for us, a four-day-old litter of puppies!! Nine puppies, in a spotless whelping box underneath a heat lamp. Mama Greyhound was crated while we were visiting, because she's the protective type.



As we were oohing and aahing over the puppies, the farm owner said, "You can hold them if you want. Just use two hands when you pick them up." Didn't have to tell any of us twice, I assure you! I worked with greyhound adoption for fifteen years, handling hundreds of adult dogs, and this was the first time I had ever seen a litter of puppies. It was a special treat that I will probably always remember.



A Very Greyhound Weekend continued...



a back-up generator, and it was obvious that it was always kept spotlessly clean. It also had two banks of nine kennels, one that held five nine-month-old greyhounds, and another where a greyhound was on kennel rest to recover from a paw injury. In another area of the farm, there were long, fenced outdoor runs.

What struck me about this farm is how much the owner cared about the welfare of his dogs and how well kept the place was. The building with the whelping area wasn't fancy, but it had air conditioning and



greyhounds per race.

After the farm, the rest of Sunday was spent at Wheeling Island Greyhound Track watching the greyhounds do what they were born to do. This was the third time that I have been to a greyhound track, the second time that I have been to the one at Wheeling, and I am always amazed and delighted to watch the greyhounds run. There were 17 races on the schedule that day. Each race follows the same routine, eight

A Very Greyhound Weekend continued...



scratching her dog's back or another dog getting his tummy rubbed.

Most of the greyhounds walk nicely on a loose lead ... it's their routine and they're comfortable with it. After the equipment check, the dogs are led to the starting box.

The front of the box is closed, and the dogs are loaded into each compartment from behind. After the last dog is loaded, a signal is given and the mechanical lure starts on its track along the inside rail, and the dogs in their boxes start barking like crazy ... they know that it's time to chase the 'bunny'. As the lure passes the box, you hear the announcer say, "Here comes Spunky ...

The greyhounds are led out of the preparation/paddock area on leash for the post parade. Sometimes, one of the dogs has to answer the call of nature during the post parade. If this happens, the handler will yell "hold on", and the whole line stops while until the dog in question is finished. Each muzzle and racing jacket on the dogs is checked, and every dog gets a scratch on the head in the process. While waiting in line for their turn to have their equipment check, you'll see things like a handler



Greyhounds Rock Fredericksburg



... and they're off!"



Greyhound Rock Fredericksburg

A Very Greyhound Weekend continued...

The greyhounds burst from the box and are up to top speed within three or four strides. It is an awesome sight to see them running full-out like this.



I stood at the edge of the front stretch of the track, and did what I could to get some decent photos of dogs with my telephoto lens. It took some practice, focusing on a spot and anticipating when the dogs would streak by. Most of my photos were of empty track, as I missed the shot time after time.



A Very Greyhound Weekend continued...

At the finish of the race, the lure disappears into a box and the greyhounds are distracted by a squeaky noise, so they can be gathered up by the handlers and taken to the paddock to cool off. I wonder if this is why Emma and Daniel, my former 'hounds, loved their squeaky toys so much.



In between races, the track gets sprinkled by a water truck and groomed by this little tractor,



and the area in front of the starting box is raked smooth by hand. Then the process starts all over again for the next race.

Notice the building in the background of the photo where you see the dogs all lined up at beginning of the equipment check. The left side of the building contains the indoor kennels, the paddock, and preparation area, and the right side of the building has the on-track adoption kennel. After the last race, we made a quick stop at the adoption kennel. The workers there didn't have time to talk to us or let us visit with the dogs, because they had their hands full with a new group of retirees who had just been dropped off.



A Very Greyhound Weekend continued...



These greyhounds were fresh off the transport, and they were getting a quick flea treatment and a chance to potty before they were evaluated.



Monday was a travel day, time to say goodbye to Wheeling and head for home. Our group departed

with more than we brought with us ... in form of a new adoptee, a seven-month-old greyhound puppy named Myth. Myth has a knee injury, which makes it unlikely that she would ever race. Because of this, she was turned over to an adoption group to be rehomed. She settled right in at the cabin on her first day, and we soon found Oscar and Myth sharing the same bed. So sweet!

Monday morning was time to get back into our cars and start the long trek toward home. The route between Wheeling and Hartwood is almost a straight shot from northwest to southeast, along interstate highways and well-traveled secondary roads. Because of the way the state lines are in this area, though, we passed through West Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia again, Maryland, West Virginia for a third time, and then entered Virginia. The sunshine we enjoyed during our stay in West Virginia stayed with us until we reached the Cumberland Gap ...



A Very Greyhound Weekend continued...



Then we drove into the fog, and it rained and drizzled on us from Maryland all the way home.

We are already looking forward to Greyt Escape 2016!

Greyhounds Rock Fredericksburg is a 501c(3) non-profit fund-raising charity. Our mission is to raise awareness and funds to support canine cancer research, to honor the dogs that are or have been affected by this disease, and to offer encouragement and education to the people who love them. GRF is a 100% volunteer organization with no administrative overhead. All donations and proceeds from merchandise sales directly benefit canine

cancer research and support. Please visit www.GreyhoundsRock.org and plan to attend our annual gathering, "Roses, Wines, and Canines" in September, 2016.

American Lurcher Project

Saving the Underdogs of Underground Racing

Would you like to help the ALP?
Donations and Foster homes are
always needed!

513-478-1870

614-843-6819

www.americanlurcherproject.org

americanlurcherproject@gmail.com



Greyhounds will race into your Heart- GPA Wheeling

By Stan Pawloski

Greyhounds are gentle giants and have so much love to give.

They are a unique breed – easy to live with and provide great companionship.

Since joining Greyhound Pets of America Wheeling in January 2012, director Pamela Webb and her staff have placed more than 1,500 greyhounds to either adoption groups or private local adopters. Webb said the industry has made great strides placing greyhounds the last few years.

“I believe they make wonderful pets because of the way they are raised and their racing experience. All of their handlers are responsible for a little bit of their personalities,” Webb said. “Greyhounds do want to be part of a family. Once they race into your heart you become part of the greyhound community and will make friends all over the country.”

The process of adopting a greyhound involves several steps, the first being a visit to the kennel to meet the greyhounds available for adoption. Wheeling’s adoption kennel is located in the west end of the paddock building a short walk from the grandstand

“For those interested in adopting a greyhound, there is an application form which needs to be completed. We conduct a home visit and check personal references as well as the veterinarian used or going to be used,” Webb said. “The process can be very exciting and includes the whole family. The fee is \$250 which includes spay or neuter, a dental, heartworm check and all vaccinations.”

GPA Wheeling currently has 40 greyhounds in the adoption kennel – all are retired and of all ages. They have space available for 45.

“The greyhounds are either at the end of their career or have some kind of injury that prevents them from racing anymore,” Webb said. “I get youngsters in that are not interested in racing and I get seniors who have been at the farms for breeding.”

The adoption groups play a vital role in greyhound adoption, Webb said. “I work hand-and-hand with adoption groups all over the country and Canada. They are the biggest help in placing these gentle dogs in a forever home,” Webb said. “When my kennel is low on greyhounds, we have a friend that sends some up from Florida. With these contacts, and there are too many to mention, we are able to place a lot more greyhounds.”

Continued...

GPA Wheeling continued...

Webb follows up on all of the greyhound placements. "I try to keep in contact with the adoption groups to find out how the greyhounds are doing," Webb said. "Our goal is for every greyhound to be placed in a loving home."

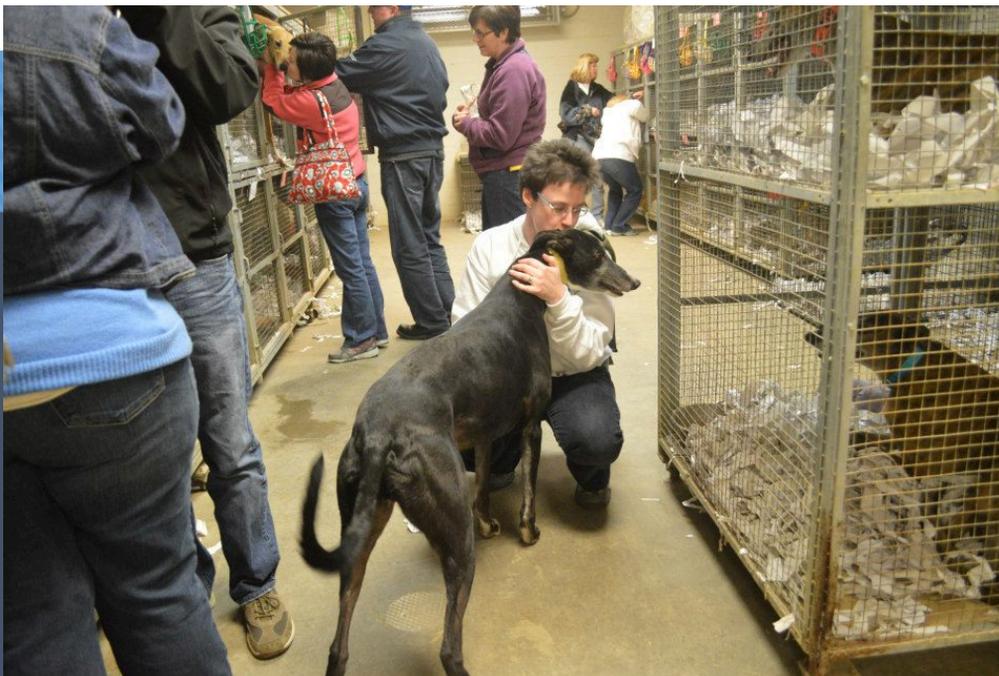
Webb said Lou Batdorf was instrumental in founding the Wheeling chapter of the GPA in the late 70s or early 80s.

"Lou was a trainer in the race kennels and saw a need for an adoption group in Wheeling. I was very lucky to have Lou as my teacher and would like to thank her for seeing the need for a place for retired racers," Webb related. "We have the adoption kennel today because of Lou and her dedication. She is a pioneer for greyhounds. Lou is retired now and we miss her."

Anyone interested in adopting a greyhound or want additional information may contact Webb at 304-231-1899 or email her at info@gpawheeling.com

Furthermore, Webb said an event called Kennel to Kouches at Oglebay Park may be a great place to start for those interesting in adoption.

The featured speakers enjoyed at the conference were Dr. Guillermo Couto, DVM, DACVIM of Couto Veterinary Consultants; Dr. Lori Bohenko, DVM West Virginia Racing Commission State Veterinarian; Lee Livingood, author of *Retired Greyhounds for Dummies*; Tom Ferris, operator of the A Ray Kennel; James Roche, trainer of the Valor Racing Kennel and many others.



GreytVines & Greyhounds

By Reg Cramp

It was another successful year for the GreytVines & Greyhounds Wine and Cheese Social. Organized by the Greyhound Trust and Alliance and hosted by Ridge Road Estate Winery. It was a wonderful way to spend a fall afternoon with friends and our multi-legged companions. I say multi rather than four-legged, because one of our guests came with only three. Chester underwent an amputation mere weeks before the event, and was looking hale and hearty, zipping around, having a great time.



Other than some wind the weather was beautiful, the temperature was perfect with lots of sunshine. The new venue was also beautiful. Perched on the escarpment with walking trails and vineyards, it is the perfect background for an outdoor event. You and your favorite companion could get away from the bustle of the event for a quiet walkabout.

The winery is a wonderful place to be; it is well laid out and beautifully decorated. Sean and Jayne the proprietors have done a perfect job of making the space comfortable and relaxing. The staff, led by sommelier Sharon Marks, is always spot on with their knowledge and assistance. It is definitely one of the best atmospheres in the business. The wines are a treat; I am particularly fond of the Gamay, but any choice there is a good one; well-crafted all of them.

The event was well attended, including a busload of wine tasters who came out to see the dogs and check out the vendors. Attending were Treats Happen, Happy Houndz, and GSNCR. As well as wine tastings nibbles and vendors, there were also activities to participate in. Swag bags and a ticket for the door prize were given out when people registered. There was a raffle with a table full of great prizes donated by a lot of generous people. One standout was the life-size greyhound sculpture; and the lucky winner is Cassandra!

The guest speaker was Allyson MacDonald DVM with a fascinating talk about acupuncture for animals. A practicing Veterinarian for twenty-two years she found some of her cases frustrating. Four years ago she learned about acupuncture and how it could increase the successes rate of many of those cases. The talk was an interesting mix of the history and philosophy behind this ancient practice. Chester the recuperating amputee was recruited as a patient in the practical portion of the demonstration. You might think that being pricked with needles would hurt, but Chester promptly fell asleep showing that the procedure isn't painful.

Some non greyhound friends came; Treats Happen brought their boxer Bentley, there were a couple of whippets, and other small breed dogs. Of note there was a beautiful galgo podenco cross, the first one I'd seen, a wonderful dog. In all the day was a wonderful mixture of people, dogs, wine, cheese and fun. I look forward to next year.



Let Sleeping Dogs Lie

WARNING: “Let Sleeping Dogs Lie”

Author: Mary Louden

President of Prison Greyhounds

www.prisongreyhounds.org

www.facebook.com/PrisonGreyhounds

I confess, I have sleep startle! ... I'm a retired racer named "YourNewGreyhound". I'm here to teach you about "sleep startle", a not-so-unusual thing that some greyhounds (or other canines) can experience. In the Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies book they call it "sleep aggression" (page 53, last paragraph). But I am not aggressive at all, even though I have this characteristic, so I prefer the word "startle". I don't mean to hurt anyone. I have to take you way back to our days in the racing kennels to explain. A racing greyhound is given his own space: a kennel, cage, crate, whatever you prefer to call it. It is our safe spot. And it is TOTALLY OURS. We sleep and eat in it. The thing we like best is that we can close our eyes and sleep, sleep, sleep. Undisturbed!

Greyhounds love to run, but we also love to sleep! A lot! In our kennels, we can totally let our guard down. We don't have to watch to see what or who is coming. So greyhounds at the racing compound are safe, secure, happy at rest in our crates. By the time the kennel workers arrive early in the morning to turn us out and feed everyone breakfast, we are wide awake. Mister I'mALoudMouth hears the truck pull up and he will be the one that starts us barking to greet the kennel people. (We figure a loud hello deserves a good breakfast!) So no one ever gets anywhere near our kennels when we are asleep. We are wide awake. During the day, if we doze off, our kennel workers are very savvy to wake us up (without the use of their hands) before reaching into our crates. We never wake up with a human hovering over us while we lay on our dog beds. So a retired racing greyhound that is fresh off the racetrack is not used to being touched when asleep. Some will outgrow it. But that is one reason why some adopted greyhounds prefer to have a crate, or a designated "safe bed" that we can retreat to. The crate door can be left open, so that we come and go as we please. But the rule is that NO ONE touches us when we are in that spot. This is a "must teach" for children, and also for adults, especially the smothering kind....You see, I bit my Forever Friend on his finger. I hurt him. I had no idea, it was a reaction. My new best friend is a big dog lover and he was so excited to greet me. He doesn't know yet to respect our sleep space. He is new to greyhounds. I was sound asleep and he lovingly scratched my whiskers. It STARTLED me! So I growled, snapped and actually bit him. I'm sorry. That's not me. It is just my instinct....So let me warn all adopters, especially when your greyhound first goes home. Give us dogs TIME and SPACE to adjust. (Even if we were first fostered in a prison or a home.) Please stay off our beds. We will get up and greet you when we are ready. Don't be so quick to try to show us how much you love us. In time we will learn we can trust you. We have a lifetime together now!!! All this does not mean we had a rough life at the race track. We didn't. It just means that life is different, and I am sharing my house with people now. And please, no hands or fingers reaching into our crates. (Some dogs exhibit this behavior only as they age. Dog senses can dull – just like people. Some dogs will sleep startle with age.) So if we are asleep, wake us up first with a loud clap, or foot stomp, or rattle the crate. Call our name. (We can sleep with eyes part way open too.) Don't be afraid that you might scare us. The most startling thing is to be touched when asleep! ...Now I'm going to go make amends with my New Best Friend today. I know that neither of us meant any harm, we are both just learning about the other.

- Love, YourNewGreyhound
(Status: recently adopted).



Greyhound Health News

Polyarthritis of Racing Greyhounds

Written by: Dr. John Brajkovich BSc, DVM
Caledon Mountain Veterinary Hospital

Disease description:

CLASSIFICATIONS OF ARTHRITIS

There are two major classifications of arthritis, inflammatory and non-inflammatory. The classification of inflammatory disease suggests signs that affect more than one area of the body as it responds. Greyhounds are particularly predisposed to immune mediated joint disease that creates an erosive condition of the joints.

This condition of erosive polyarthritis can effect several joints including the knee, elbow and hip joints. Owners normally report a swelling of the joint in question and lameness that is occasionally observed. If the associated lymph nodes are enlarged, often infectious agents may be responsible for creating the inflammation.

The disease normally affects young greyhounds, although it has been reported in older greyhounds as well. This condition may become debilitating if it progresses and is left undiagnosed and untreated.

It is not known why it happens however the immune system is affected and often infectious organisms can be cultured from the joint noted.

Your veterinarian and you may note the following clinical signs. No fever, reduced appetite, uncoordinated movements, swelling of the joint, weight loss, lameness, pain with difficulty walking.

Diagnosis is normally performed with radiographs and joint fluid analysis. This may continue as a chronic debilitating disease, therefore strong consideration for treatment and management must be considered.

Treatment/Management/Prevention:

Immunosuppressive drugs are normally used to put the disease in remission.

1) Corticosteroid administration alone may be enough in some cases to put the disease in remission.

2) Weight reduction in obese animals is recommended. 3) NSAIDs can be used to control pain. Though in theory they should all be equally efficacious, some patients appear to respond better to one over another; thus, failure to achieve an analgesic effect with one drug does not imply lack of response to all

Greyhound Walkers of Toronto



The Greyhound Walkers of Toronto are on to something

By Lisa and Samantha

The Greyhound Walkers of Toronto was officially formed in September 2015 after we, Lisa and Samantha, organized a pack walk with our own hounds Goodman and Dagger. It's such an enjoyable event for both the dogs and their people when we meet up with our greyhound friends that we decided to organize a pack walk on a regular basis.

Our primary goal for starting a walking group was to bring our wonderful greyhound friends and their hounds together for socialization and exercise. We know that greyhounds love to walk in a pack. They instinctively gravitate to each other and often try and keep pace with one another. It's great to get our couch potatoes off the couch and exercise and it give us humans the chance to chit chat and meet new people.

Before when Goodman and Dagger would meet up for a pack walk it seemed that it was always in same neighbourhood and same trails at the park. With the new walking group we really wanted to explore new areas of the city and get as many hounds to join in. Although we are the ones organizing the walks it is important that the members get involved because this group is for them.

A page on social media was created and our very first pack walk was on September 6th 2015. An open invitation to all hounds and humans who wanted to join regardless of which adoption group their hounds came from to meet at The Old Mill trail in Etienne Brule Park in Etobicoke.

There were 12 eager hounds who came out on that humid day and our little walking group was born. Our next walk was suggested by one of our members and on October 4th even more hounds came out when the group got together and to explore the Beechwood Trail in the Lower Don Valley in the heart of Toronto.

We do our best to choose trails that are flat and easy to navigate as we want as many hounds as possible to enjoy the walk and that includes senior dogs and dogs with joint issues. Our next walk is set for November 1st and we will be headed to North York to discover Downsview Park, another trail suggested by one of our members.

Continued...

Greyhound Walkers continued...



Everyone is welcomed to join in our walk. No membership fee or contract to sign, no need to confirm attendance. We meet on the very first Sunday of the month at 11 am. If you can't make it one month you can join the walk the next month. We ask everyone to check our social media page Greyhound Walkers of Toronto on facebook under the events section for details on location for that month's organized walk. Muzzles are not mandatory but we request that the owners use their own judgement should their hound need to wear one for introductions. We ask that the dogs be leashed at all times for the safety of the hounds. It is a greyhound walking group but all sight hounds are more than welcome to join. Other breeds are also welcome to join as long as the dog's behaviour does not disrupt the energy of the pack.

We are pleased that so many have joined our first two walks and we look forward to seeing more humans and hounds join in the coming months!

Three Strikes and Chester hits a Home Run

The typical retired racing greyhound travels from the racetrack kennel to a foster home, and then to his forever home. Chester is anything but typical. His is cursed and charmed life that narrowly escaped death three times. Thankfully, Chester now lives out his retired days as a goofy, adorable hound. This is the story of Chester's home run after suffering three strikes.

Through the efforts of the Flying Irish Greyhounds and the Greyhound Supporters of the National Capital Region (GSNCR), Chester made his way from Galway, Ireland to Ottawa, Canada where he found a loving and caring foster home. It was then Chester first found himself in crisis. Andrew, Chester's foster dad, discovered Chester one morning shrieking in pain for no obvious reason. Andrew took Chester to the veterinarian, and while they were trying to determine the problem, Chester took a turn for the worse with a case of bloat.

Bloat, like an assassin, is quick and deadly. It was the luck of the Irish that put Chester literally in the veterinarian's office when his bloat struck, and the vet immediately treated the emergency condition, avoiding certain death. That was the first time we nearly lost Chester.

With his bloat treated, Chester still had the original problem – shrieking for no obvious reason. The vet referred Chester to a neurology veterinarian specialist, who ordered a battery of diagnostic tests. All the test results showed nothing wrong. The neurologist cracked the mystery when she diagnosed Chester with Steroid Responsive Meningitis-Arteritis (SRMA), an auto-immune disorder that attacks the brain and spinal cord. Untreated, SRMA is extremely painful and ultimately fatal. Chester responded to the treatment, and within 24 hours he was resting comfortably, flaunting his red brindle coat and flirting with the young veterinarian technicians in true Irish style. That was the second time we nearly lost Chester.

When we showed interest in adopting Chester two months later, the GSNCR disclosed Chester's detailed medical history to us. Laura of the GSNCR told us Chester would require six more months of SRMA treatment, and she offered to pay those costs. Our family discussed and argued the pros and cons of adopting Chester for a long time. His adoption was by no means a sure thing – we had serious concerns about what Chester's bloat and SRMA foreshadowed in problems yet to come. On the plus side, we liked Chester's goofy but peaceful personality and his adorable affectionate side, not to mention his striking good looks.

In the end, we realized that no dog comes with guarantees. Chester was the right one for us, and that was all that mattered. And so, on December 13, 2014, Chester joined the McPhail family. We insisted on accepting full responsibility for Chester, including all his medical costs, from day one. It was our reminder of the solemn responsibility a pet owner accepts.



Continued...

Three Strikes continued...

Just over six months later, on a warm summer afternoon, Chester started shrieking in pain on a routine walk to the neighborhood Starbucks. Fearing an SRMA relapse, we rushed Chester to the emergency clinic, and his neurologist examined Chester right away. She admitted Chester into Alta Vista Animal Hospital's (AVAH) Intensive Care Unit for high risk patients.

Chester was diagnosed with a thrombosis (blood clot) in his front left leg. It had nothing to do with the SRMA. The leg's blood flow was cut off, and the limb was dying. The AVAH made Chester comfortable with medication, but the doctors told us amputation was the only option.

We waited for news of the operation. News came, but not what we expected. Blood started flowing to his leg just before his scheduled amputation. The AVAH cancelled the surgery. We had braced ourselves for amputation, and we just wanted it over with. Of course we were thrilled at the prospect of a full recovery, but then the doctors warned us that so much damage had already occurred, Chester may lose the leg anyway. We were an emotional train wreck.

Chester was in and out of hospital to manage his pain for the next three weeks. His leg grew worse, and skin started falling off. Even though I replaced sterile bandages on daily, Chester's leg became infected, and the vet warned the infection could spread to his vital organs. Suddenly amputation became urgent again, so we admitted him in preparation for surgery.

This time Chester's amputation went ahead, and it went well, but Chester later developed a reaction to his sutures. Two weeks after that, Chester went back into minor surgery for complications from the amputation. This surgery did not go well, and Chester was rushed into the ICU for three days. Chester improved enough to go home. He required two more weeks of quiet recovery (with the cone of shame) before he finally had his stitches removed.



We spent nearly two months on an agonizing emotional rollercoaster ride starting the day he didn't make it to Starbucks to the day his stitches came out. That exhausting episode was the third time we nearly lost Chester.

Chester is happy at home again. We don't notice his missing leg anymore. He goes about life like any normal dog, with only a few minor adjustments. We love his goofy smiles and his affectionate leans, and we are comforted by the knowledge that bad news comes in threes.

The author, Alex McPhail, is a life-long dog owner. Chester is the McPhail family's first retired racing Greyhound.

For a much more comprehensive account of Chester's ordeals, as well as a detailed description of SRMA, bloat, and thrombosis, read Alex's journal 'Chester's Journey' at http://www.mcphail.ca/Greyhound_Archives/Library/Chester's%20Journey.pdf

There you will also find a list of important facts every Greyhound owner needs to know when taking their Greyhound to the vet, especially any time surgery is involved.

Project: Ear Warming Snood

From Greyhound Manor Crafts:

Keep those hound's ears toasty with this quick and easy snood.
Great for those especially cold days where just a coat won't cut it. Special thanks to Leslie Nicoll (lnicoll@maine.rr.com) for creating this pattern and sharing it with the world.

The snood is long enough that hounds don't pull it out of the neck of the coat, even when fidgeting and moving.

Time

Each snood takes 5-15 minutes to make.

Materials Needed

20" x 30" piece of fabric (polar fleece works best, but anything thick and warm will do)

12" piece of elastic (anything from 1/4" to 1/2" wide)

Instructions

1. Basically, take a 20"x30" piece of fabric. Sew a seam on the 20" side so you have a tube.
2. Hem one end on the machine by turn the fabric over 1/4", then 1/4" again and sewing.
3. Turn over the other end 1/4" and sew, then turn again (this time 1/2" - 3/4") and sew to make a casing. Leave a small opening.
4. Measure a piece of elastic around the dog's face (usually about 12 inches), near the ears. Subtract 2" and cut the elastic. Be sure to measure while the elastic is in its un-stretched state.
5. Thread the elastic through the casing. Adjust size on dog, sew elastic together, close up hole on casing and there you have it. You can put the snood on first, then the hound coat



Fast Food

Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats

Recipe By: Kelly

Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 40 minutes

Ready In 1 h 40 m

"Baked dog treats filled with pumpkin and peanut butter."

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Whisk together the flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl. Add water as needed to help make the dough workable, but the dough should be dry and stiff. Roll the dough into a 1/2-inch-thick roll. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces.
3. Bake in preheated oven until hard, about 40 minutes.



News from



by Sonya Matheson

Cold Weather and your Hound: Function, Fashion and Fun!

The clocks turn back on November 1st, which means that the cooler weather looms. Depending on where you live in North America, different climates call for different types of attire.

Greyhound owners have a myriad of options when it comes to dressing their hound for winter. This said, it's important for you to have the proper fit to ensure your hound is protected from the elements.

Choosing the proper coat:

A common question I get from adopters is "how cold does it have to be to put a coat on my greyhound?" An easy answer is when you feel the cold, they feel the cold. A good rule of thumb is anything cooler than 8 degrees Celsius (16 degrees Fahrenheit) for a light-to-medium jacket or sweater. Anything cooler than freezing calls for something heavier (winter quality, such as double walled fleece). A winter coat should also be combined with ear and neck protection, either in the way in a built-in collar or an additional snood.

When choosing a coat, ensure that you have the proper length. Greyhounds require a longer, lean cut of coat, that comes up long and fitted underneath to cover your hound's tummy, and also long enough to cover the back haunches to protect his/her hips from the cold.

Properly measuring your hound:

When choosing a custom coat, you have many options in colours, patterns and designs. But what is the best about choosing a custom option is that you can get the fit just right. Providing you're not trying to "fatten up" a new alumni, or you're not trying to shed a few pounds from a food-motivated pup, a good quality custom coat should last the life (or at least for several years) of your houndie. This said, if you're like me, you may opt to have a few coats so that you can coordinate with your moods and own outfits!

Steps to getting a proper fit:

1. Using a soft measuring tape to take the measurements for a more true fit.
2. Your dog should be standing straight upright.
3. Measure your hound from the base of his/her neck (in front of the shoulder blades) to the base of tail. A proper greyhound coat length should, as mentioned above, be a little bit longer by 1-2 inches than the length of your hound.

*If your dog is laying down, or sitting, the back measurement may be off. It's imperative that your dog is standing with his/her head facing forward to get the best fit.

Continued...

News from



What to measure when ordering a custom coat?

1. Length of back (from base of neck to base of tail)
2. Chest girth (at the widest part of the barrel of your hounds chest)
3. Neck girth (loosely around your hounds neck)
4. Sometimes, coat makers might ask you to measure the width of your hound's chest across the front of his/her body. This is the horizontal measurement across your pup's chest.
5. Sometimes, also, coat makers might ask you to measure the circumference around the mid-range spot of the belly, if your coat will include a belly warmer.

The winter and holiday season offers lots of opportunities to attend shows where you can encounter custom coat makers. I like to keep my greyhounds' measurements in my wallet, so that you can order something special or buy off the rack according to the guidelines of the coat vendor.

To boot, or not to boot – that is the question!

Another question many adopters ask me, is whether or not they should purchase boots for their dog. I think this is a personal decision, and also has a lot to do with where you will be walking your dogs over the winter months.

If you live in an urban environment with lots of salted walkways, investing in boots is a greyt idea! Salted sidewalks can wreak havoc on a grey's feet pads, causing cuts, sensitivity and infection.

If you live in a rural area where you can let your greys walk through fluffier snow or partially-covered grass, boots might not be as important, but definitely increase the comfort for your dog against the extreme cold. If you choose the no-boot route, ensure you limit your outdoor time so that your hound doesn't experience frostbite.

Some companies sell an alternative product, such as a "paw balm" that provides a thin layer of protective waxy cream, moisturizing and protecting your grey's feet against extreme cold and salt damage. If you go this route, just ensure that the product is all natural and safe to ingest if your greyhound has a tendency to lick his/her paws.

Don't get discouraged if you have a greyhound who refuses to wear boots. I've seen many dogs who freeze or "statue" if you put boots on them. Be patient, and work your grey up to walking with them. He or she will get the hang of it with practice, and will be happier overall to have the nice protection from the elements.

Whether you choose custom or "off the rack", your adoption agency will have many connections and options when it comes to where you can get a coat for your grey. A good rule of thumb is that all greys should have at least 2 coats. One for Spring/Fall (ideally waterproof that offers protection against wind and rain), and one for colder winter months (especially if you are in Canada or the northern US). Again, many adopters tend to go a little overboard and have many different coats and options (greyhound owners --- overboard?? Shocking, I know!) But whatever you choose – always ensure that you are well-prepared to face the elements for whatever this winter has in store for us.

News from



GreyHounds of Eastern Michigan

Making Dreams Come True, One Greyhound at a Time

Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan Greyhound Event of Michigan 2015



The Greyhound Event of Michigan, sponsored by GreyHounds of Eastern Michigan, was held May 15, 16 & 17 of this year. This year's speakers included Dr Radcilff (Keynote – Greyhound Specialist), Dr. Palo Vilar Saavedra of MSU (Greyhound Cancer Specialist), Dr. Christina Cole (Chiropractor), Leslie Cirinesi (Pet Communicator), The Prison Inmate Experience and others.

Vendors filled the hall and overall attendance was around 175. Great speakers, great vendors, great food and greyhounds, what more could anyone want.

Mark you calendar now for May 13-15, 2016 for next year's event.

Our theme for next year will be "Going for the Gold".

Hope to see you there.

News from



It's a Greyhound Life!

Despite cloudy skies, It's A Greyhound Life (IAGL) was a wonderful day for hounds and their dog lovers. The Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton – Wentworth (GLOHW) hosted the event at the Binbrook Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 24th. Special thanks go to Ramona Herman, IAGL's enthusiastic coordinator, for creating a family-friendly event of fun games, grey vendors, fabulous raffle and silent auction offerings, yummy treats (for dogs and people), and lively conversations and connections.



Check out the GLOHW to see more photos of the day's events, including a special "water cam" view of the bobbing for hotdogs event. Those curious about how fast their greyhound really is could get a speed check with the radar gun. While we think of them as 40 mph couch potatoes, many of the greys proved they could step it up and hit the big numbers when it matters most! A costume parade, along with a costume race, showed the creativity of greyhound owners in dressing up our furry friends. Gideon, special friend of Carol Robinson, won this year's costume contest in a snappy band leader outfit, complete with horn.

The day began with a blessing of the hounds, with each dog receiving a blessing ribbon and some getting extra wishes for improved behavior. Dr. Barbara Sloat spoke on the benefits of animal chiropractic. Vendors hosted a photo booth, offered fashions, collars and accoutrements and treats, healers and animal lovers shared their talents. And, while all of the indoor and outdoor activities were happening, raffle tickets and silent auction bids were open in the main venue. From coats to dog beds, crates to t-shirts, beautiful artwork to stuffed goodie baskets, there were many opportunities to help support greyhound adoption AND possibly take home a special treasure.

No event of this size and complexity is offered with the aid and support of the whole organization, and especially that cadre of dedicated folks who set up and clean up, organize and coordinate, gather and present, and give generously of their time. GLOHW presented IAGL as a community event for the fun and pleasure of greyhound owners and those considering adopting. This year, there was a great turnout and active participation in the games and events. The Glanbrook paper, along with the Flamborough Review carried articles to share the news. GLOHW is greyful to those who attended, purchased, participated, helped, donated or coordinated this year's event.



It's a greyhound life - what a great way to be
reminded how lucky we are!

News from



GRA Canada Celebrates Community



“Congratulations on your new adoption, you have not only adopted a retired racing greyhound, but you have been adopted by a whole community”, is a welcome each and every GRA adopter is given when embarking on this life altering moment. Just as the experience of having a retired racer in one’s life is very difficult to articulate, it is also hard to find the words to describe the unbelievably supportive greyhound community one automatically becomes a part of. The best part of becoming a part of this community is one receives a free lifetime membership with a very flexible contract: one can choose the level of involvement and commitment. This “greyhound cult”, as it is often referred to, is an integral part of GRA Canada. Through the GRA Forum and GRA Facebook group, adopters, trainers, GRA volunteers, potential adopters and other adoption groups have the opportunity to exchange information, seek and offer advice and support, share milestones and sorrows or simply feel a sense of belonging. This sense of community and belonging is never more evident than at the annual spring and fall GRA Canada fundraiser picnics where greyhound people come together to

celebrate what so deeply binds us together: the beloved retired racing greyhound. GRA Canada would like to take this opportunity to thank and celebrate all of the amazing people and hounds who make up this phenomenal community!



News from



International Greyhound Planet Day 2015

By Laura Simmermon

On Saturday, September 19, 2015, the Greyhound Supporters hosted its 11th annual International Greyhound Planet Day. International Greyhound Planet was established in 2001 to honour the greyhound and its relatives throughout the world and this commemoration began as the idea of a Kansas City greyhound adopter, Therese Skinner and it found a home with the American-European Greyhound Alliance. Over the years, Greyhound Planet Day has been celebrated by greyhound advocates sponsoring events across the United States, Canada, Britain, Ireland, Norway and Australia. International awareness made this celebration of the greyhound, dynamic, wide ranging, and inclusive - connecting many, many people and their greyhounds.

Over the years, the format of our Greyhound Planet Day celebration has changed, but it has continued to be an opportunity for folks who have already adopted greyhounds and folks who are interested in adopting a greyhound to meet and chat about these marvelous retired athletes.

This year, we celebrated Greyhound Planet Day at the Numech Equestrian Centre which provided a great dog-friendly venue. We had a great compliment of awesome vendors, plus Tarn Keable who did nail clipping and temporary tattoos and Alissa Albert who took fantastic hound photos as usual. A new feature this year were the fun games for the hounds and their humans to play, in addition to a Pawtrait Studio for those hounds who had an artistic flair. Many thanks to the bakers who generously contributed lots of hound and human goodies and thanks too to the many cooks who brought in vast quantities of delicious chili. The biggest hit of the day though was the miniature horse who decided to be a honorary greyhound for the day.

Funds raised at this year's International Greyhound Planet Day will go to support the foster program we have in support of our adoption program. Many thanks to everyone who attended Planet Day.

