

# Celebrating Greyhounds

Summer 2014 Online Magazine



**'Mo' Goes To College**

*ALSO INSIDE:*

**Greyhounds & Galgos: Same or Different?**

**Wedding Bells & Greyhounds**



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# Editorial Comment



*Editor-In-Chief Stacy Pigott, with Greyhound Gypsy and Australian Cattle Dog-mix Jewel.*

When I first got involved with Greyhounds, I heard a couple of people use a term that I wasn't altogether familiar with. Oh sure, there was the normal "Grey-speak" – rooing, chattering, roaching, and the like – but this was different. People were talking about their "heart dog."

*What is that? What is a heart dog?* I thought to myself. Jenna Gates gave the best description when she wrote on her blog: "In my opinion, your heart dog is that once in a lifetime – maybe twice if you're truly blessed – soul mate dog. He or she is the one you click with similarly to, but different from, how people in love click. There's an understanding, a bond stronger than most, and a special level of communication. Your

heart dog 'gets' you and you get him or her right back."

Last issue, I told you how I came to adopt my first Greyhound, Gypsy. It wasn't a love-at-first-sight fairytale story, in fact I left the meet and greet that day with her in the back of my car and a huge sense of trepidation about whether or not I had adopted the right dog. Of course, I had, and I love Gypsy with all my heart.

But Greta was different.

I got an email one day, asking if I would pick up a dog for Greyhounds Unlimited, the adoption group I work with in North Texas. I agreed, and made plans to pick up the dog on a Friday night. Saturday morning, I would deliver her to the group's medical coordinator, Mary McNally,

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for veterinary processing. Simple, right?

When I got to the house to pick up Greta, she was lying on a dog bed in the dining room. She didn't even lift her head in acknowledgement when we walked into the room. As I sat down beside the dog, the woman began to tell me why she called GU.

Through the harsh Texas winter, Greta had been running as a stray near where the woman worked in a rural area south of Fort Worth. There was a male Greyhound, too, and the woman started feeding them to try to catch them. It wasn't difficult to catch Greta. She had a large gash

on her head down to the skull and was skin and bones. The male was healthier, and unfortunately never did allow himself to be caught.

The Good Samaritan took Greta to her veterinarian and, for three months, treated her injuries. She was reserved, the woman said, never approaching the family for attention or interacting with them, and though she had the run of the house, she rarely left the dining room. The head wound healed and Greta gained weight, but when one of the resident Labrador Retrievers jumped on Greta and knocked her over, the woman knew the Greyhound

would have to find a new home.

Indeed, the whole time we talked, Greta never moved. She didn't act like she even knew we were there. When it came time to leave, I had to help her stand up, and then lift her in the car. As I pulled out of the driveway, I called Mary and said, "There is something wrong with this dog's hind end."

When we got home, Greta fell trying to get out of the car. I picked her up again and took her inside. When she saw Gypsy, I saw the first bit of light enter her previously dull eyes. *Another Greyhound!* In the backyard, Greta proved she could walk on her own, albeit with a slight limp,

## DISCLAIMER

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The magazine's purpose is to provide information about Greyhounds as a breed. Recognizing that there are differing points of view on issues such as racing, breeding, and adoption policies, to mention a few, the magazine does not advocate a position on these issues. It will publish articles and reader letters regarding these issues if deemed appropriate. Unless otherwise stated, The Greyhound Project, Inc. does not necessarily agree with materials published herein. Ideas and opinions are those of the writers. No authentication or approval is implied by the editors or publishers, who assume no liability for information contained herein. *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* reserves the right to refuse publication, to edit or modify any material, and to hold such material for an indeterminate period. If your Greyhound is ill, please see a veterinarian.

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but if she tried to go faster than a walk she would lose her balance and fall over. After picking her up a few more times, we went back inside, where I left Greta loose to explore the house if she wanted. To my surprise, this dog who hadn't left the dining room for nearly three months at her old residence walked into every room and checked it all out while I sat on the couch and watched. When she had satisfied her curiosity, she walked straight up to me, put her head on my knee and licked my hand. Yes, the dog who refused to interact with people at her temporary home had just sought me out and said hi.

I called Mary back. "I don't want to give her up," I said. Mary laughed, and asked me what it

was about this particular dog that made me say that? After all, I had fostered dogs before and had no trouble sending my fosters off to their forever homes. Why was this dog different? I told Mary I didn't know, really. I couldn't put my finger on it, but there was just something about this dog. Mary knew. She understood. It had happened to her, too. "You have to listen to that feeling you have," she said.

I did take Greta to Mary's that weekend, but as soon as she was ready, I picked her up from the veterinary clinic and brought my beautiful brindle heart dog home, and she's been here ever since.

*Stacy*

*Brindle heart dog, Greta*

## 5 Celebrating Greyhounds





# Your Letters

**W**e enjoyed the article on the Jingle Bell Walk. It is always great to see so many hounds together outside the track.

We also liked the article about play. Our hounds are littermate brothers, Max and Phil, whom we adopted through Heartland Greyhound Adoption (HGA) in central Iowa. They are our fourth and fifth Greyhounds since we were introduced to the breed by Jody Evans and Jorene King of HGA.

Of course, of particular interest in each issue are all the pictures of Greyhounds in their adopted environments. While we understand why, we are among those sad to see the demise of the printed magazine, but please keep the magazine going online.



*Max and Phil, adopted by Dick and Marie Taylor, of Saint Lawrence, South Dakota*

***Regards,***

***Dick and Marie Taylor  
Saint Lawrence, South Dakota***

**T**hank you for the latest issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds*. I really enjoyed the articles. It did make me sad to know that so many Greyhounds in Australia have to wear muzzles when outside of their home. A gentler, more sweet-natured dog than a Greyhound cannot be found! My hound would be heartbroken to have to wear his muzzle again. He runs away whenever I find it and show it to him.

Thank you for including the tribute to Eron and Crystal Bay, who both passed away since the last issue. They were a favorite pair of hounds in our REGAP of Illinois, Inc. group. I miss hearing my friend Denise yell, "Sisters!" when she would see them and then seeing her being covered in kisses. Those girls helped a lot of hounds find their forever homes and we miss them dearly.

It was wonderful to read about Dr. Couto and Scooby. I am getting more and more interested in the plight of the Galgos. I am confused by one thing though — I read and hear them referred to as

**CG**  
Letters





Spanish Greyhounds, but I have heard others say they are not related to the Greyhounds. Can someone clarify that for me?

Thanks for a great issue. I look forward to the next issue with eager anticipation.

**Janice, Luka and Peace Brinegar**  
**Oak Lawn, Illinois**

*Editor's Note: Dr. Couto and Petra Postma answer your "Spanish Greyhound" question starting on page 22 of this issue. While there are similarities between the two sighthounds, they are, in fact, distinct breeds. We hope you enjoy their explanations.*

I just read the spring issue and loved it, particularly the information on Page 5 about the Brave Tide Foundation. I came across the foundation in December 2013 and have followed it since. I've sponsored two Greyhounds already, hoping to sponsor many more. One of them, Flyer, is in the picture!

Also on Page 7, the adoption group outreach article was very informative. I know there are many challenges, but I did not know that transporting, or hauling, was a major challenge. I volunteer for Greyhound Rapid Transport, organized by Larry Bowersox, and absolutely love hauling

these Greyhounds. I haven't missed a haul since January 2013. It is so rewarding and I cannot wait to hear more about this hauling project.

I have been in the corporate world for 27 years now, and if there was a full-time Greyhound transport driver job available, I would leave my job this minute to drive. My ultimate goal is to haul Greyhounds full time when I retire. I feel it is such an important part of the whole process. Rescues cannot get dogs to adopt out, if they have no dogs.

Anyway, I could go on and on about transporting, but just wanted to drop you a note that the issue was wonderful. Thanks for the great info, I love reading the magazine.

**Regards,**  
**Laurie Little**

We welcome your letters (up to 250 words) and photographs. Please send letters to the Editor via [email](#) and include your full name if you would like your letter to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for brevity and/or clarity. We regret that we cannot publish every letter.

CG  
Letters





# *Greyhound Bytes:*

*News you can sink your teeth into*

## **Tea towels for charity**

As awareness of the plight of Greyhounds and other sighthound breeds in Ireland, Spain, and the UK grows, Tracy Hendy took it upon

herself to add a charity component to her line of designer items. The interior designer in England has designed a charity tea towel, with all of the profits going to four sighthound rescue groups. Hendy, who has had Greyhounds and Whippets for 24 years, volunteers with the Greyhound Rescue West of England, which is

where she got her current dogs, Sookie and Honey. Hendy's charity tea towels are available in Dike & Son in Stalbridge, from Sophie at Jessali Handmade at Gibbs Marsh Farm or on her website [dogsandrosesonline.co.uk](http://dogsandrosesonline.co.uk). Read more at [Blackmore Vale Magazine](#).

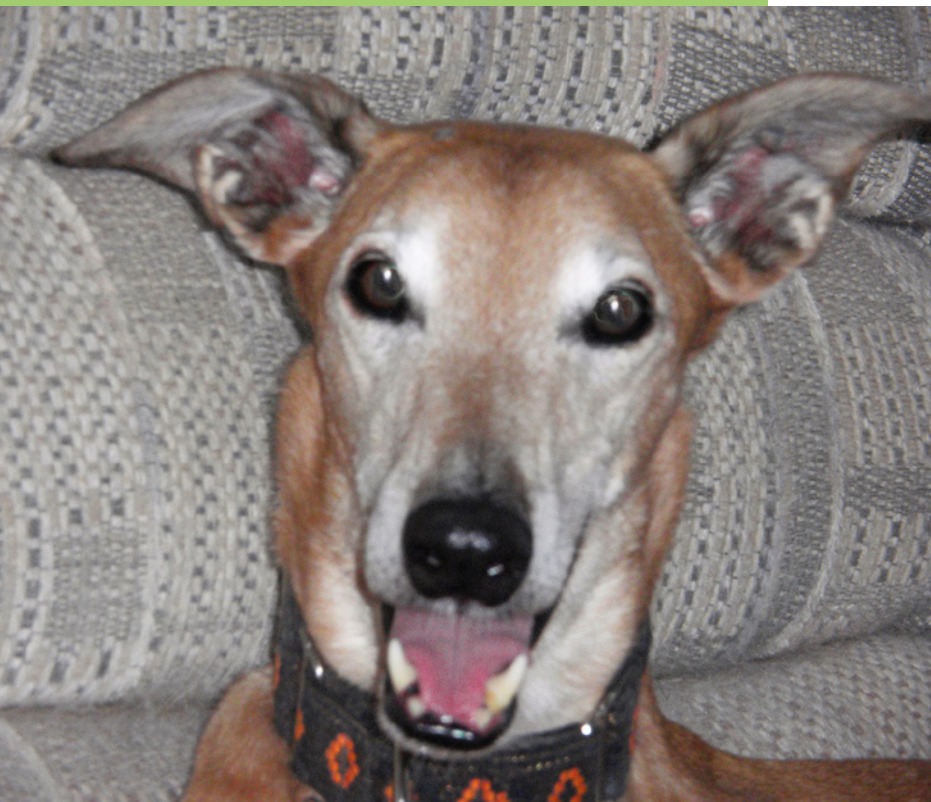
## **Go The Pink Dog**

During the month of April, Greyhound Racing Victoria, in Australia, held their fourth annual "Go The Pink Dog" campaign. The engaging charity event sees \$500 donated to the McGrath Foundation every time a Greyhound wearing the

pink No. 8 rug wins a race at one of Greyhound Racing Victoria's 13 tracks throughout the month of April. All proceeds go directly to helping the McGrath Foundation achieve its objectives, with the campaign also aimed at raising awareness of breast cancer and encouraging women to be "breast aware." A total of \$69,000 was raised in April, bringing the event's four-year total to nearly \$350,000. Read more about [Go The Pink Dog at Greyhound Racing Victoria](#). Read about a trainer whose involvement with Greyhounds helped her in her own battle against breast cancer and cemented her support

*Shelby, adopted from Philadelphia Greyhound Connection by Freda Terrell-Tait and Chris Tait.*





*Hotrod, who just turned 12, was adopted through Team Greyhound Adoption of Ohio by Lorraine Kline, of Union, Ohio.*

of Go The Pink Dog at [Latrobe Valley Express](#). During the month of May, Greyhound Racing SA ran a similar fundraiser, donating \$250 to Cystic Fibrosis SA every time a Greyhound wearing the red No. 1 blanket won. The fundraiser was held in conjunction with Cystic Fibrosis SA's 65 Roses campaign. Read more at [Perth Now](#).

### **Tiggy's loss raises awareness of hidden dangers**

Last year, Belinda Jones adopted two Greyhounds, Mickey and Tiggy. This spring, they sold their house and moved, taking their beloved Greyhounds with them. "Sadly on April 22, Tiggy died instantly when

she ran from inside to outside, but ran straight through our closed conservatory door. Tiggy was only 3 years old, full of life, loved every day, and loved everyone. She would jump up and cuddle you and nibble your ears; she was a mischievous but beautiful girl." The Jones family has set up a Facebook page to raise awareness of the dangers of windows, sliding glass doors, and other objects that could be hazardous to a running Greyhound. You can find the open group on Facebook by searching for "Tiggy the Greyhounds Awareness Page." Read the news article at [The Argus](#).

### **NGA removes dogs from Arkansas farm**

The American Greyhound Council (AGC) recently issued a press release stating the National Greyhound

Association (NGA) has removed approximately 135 Greyhounds from a rural Arkansas farm in response to concerns raised by other NGA members in the area. The dogs were transported to the NGA headquarters, in Abilene, Kansas, where they will be cared for until they are ready to return to their owners or be placed up for adoption. Read more at the [Arkansas Blog](#). The NGA Board of Directors, at a June 4 hearing in Abilene, denied membership and registry privileges to Shane Vonderstrasse, of Mt.Pleasant, Ar., effective immediately. View the [NGA press release](#).





### **Afternoon tea results in record adoptions**

The Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP), in Victoria, Australia, held an afternoon tea on Saturday, May 24, 2014, adopting a single-day record of 14 retired racing Greyhounds as pets. The event was attended by approximately 220 people, including about 100 staff and volunteers from GAP. The day capped a record week for GAP, with a total of 38 Greyhounds being adopted during the third week in May. Read more at [Greyhound Racing Victoria](#) and follow [GAP on Facebook](#).

### **Australian breeder fights “dangerous dog” designation**

When Graham Sheather’s Greyhound Humdrum escaped through an open garage door, the longtime owner and breeder immediately went after the 6-year-old dog. An hour and one-half later, Humdrum was

located at the local pound with wounds from a skirmish with a wayward cat. Unfortunately, the cat did not survive, and Sheather is now fighting the “dangerous dog” designation that the local government has bestowed upon Humdrum. Under the Dangerous Dog Act, once a dog is declared dangerous, owners must ensure their dog is microchipped and lifetime-registered, desexed, is not left in the sole charge of a person under 18 years, is contained in an enclosure that meets regulation requirements, wears a prescribed collar at all times, wears a muzzle, and is securely leashed at all times when outside the enclosure. Owners must also display dangerous dog warning signs and notify council if they are entering or leaving an area. Read more at the [Young Witness](#).

### **Loose dog injures man, kills Greyhound**

A Staffordshire Terrier broke loose from his owner and attacked a father and son walking

their Greyhounds. The Greyhounds were muzzled, as required by law in many parts of Australia. Ryan McHugh tried to defend his Greyhounds from the attack, which resulted in part of a muzzle piercing his knee. One Greyhound, Blackie, had to be euthanized due to his injuries. Another, Ebony, was bitten on the shoulder. McHugh’s father, Bob, stayed a safe distance away to keep the two Greyhounds he was walking out of harm’s way. Read more at the [Daily Telegraph](#).

### **Greyhounds benefit people with brain injuries**

A new kind of pet therapy is being used in Gateshead, U.K., where Greyhounds are visiting patients with brain damage, such as from strokes, head injuries, or neurological conditions. The Greyhounds help with coordination and speech issues, in addition to motivating patients. Read more and watch a video at [itv](#).



# *Pasta's New Wheels*



*Pasta, age 2, has healed well from the surgery that removed his left front leg.*

A young Greyhound with a birth defect is saved from a shelter and finds a forever home with a new set of wheels to help him get around.

*By Jim McIntosh & Stacy Pigott*

**P**asta is a 2-year-old, dark brindle male. Now, there is nothing unusual about that description except for his name. However, when Pasta arrived at **Greyhounds Unlimited (GU)** in August 2012 at less than 6 months of age, it became obvious why he left the racing industry so early, and suddenly he was unusual. This sweet, energetic boy had a terribly deformed left front leg. Most likely this was a birth defect, possibly followed by an injury.

Initially, Pasta was able to get around quite well with his deformity. In fact, it didn't appear to slow him down too much at all. Like any other young, male Greyhound, he was full of energy and had a keen nose





*When Pasta was 5 months old, he arrived at Greyhounds Unlimited with a badly deformed left front leg.*

for getting into mischief.

Longtime GU volunteer Sammye Conway became Pasta's long-term foster care giver, and eventually his adopter. Because Pasta's injury involved his foreleg and wrist, extending his leg caused a great deal of discomfort, Conway soon discovered. Yet, Pasta was an exuberant 5-month-old puppy. He hobbled a little on his bad leg, but it seldom

stopped him from getting the most joy out of every moment of his day. "Sometimes I could tell his leg was bothering him. If he landed on it the wrong way, he would let out a heartbreaking yelp."

Within a few weeks, it became obvious that Pasta was beginning to experience

pain when he walked on his bad leg. The decision was made to seek the advice of Dr. Robert Radasch, a veterinary surgeon at the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Clinic. He examined Pasta's leg and took radiographs. Then he gave us the advice we came to the clinic for, but it was not what we wanted to hear. Radasch recommended removing Pasta's deformed leg.

We were hopeful that surgical reconstruction could repair and save Pasta's leg and discussed this option with Radasch, but he convinced us that due to the nature of the deformity Pasta would require two to three surgeries. Following these operations, there was a good chance his leg would have to be amputated anyway. "If Pasta were my dog, I would remove his leg now," Radasch said, "and not put him through all of that."

In our hearts, we wanted to gamble



*Pasta's wheel cart allows him to walk for longer distances without getting tired.*

on the option to save Pasta's front leg. Nevertheless, the veterinarian's advice prevailed and the decision was made to amputate. Dr. Mark Sheets, of the Animal Clinic of Grand Prairie, in Grand Prairie,



Texas, performed the surgery. He has cared for GU Greyhounds for more than 12 years.

As Pasta began his long journey of recovery he remained in the clinic for several weeks, receiving daily visits from GU's foster-home coordinator, the late Mary McAnally. Then he returned to Conway's house. Pasta's medical bills were paid through generous donations to GU in his name through several fundraising requests. Many people opened their hearts to help this special boy so he could live a healthy, normal life.

"Pasta had a long recovery period. He was depressed and would not eat, so unlike the boisterous puppy he had previously been. But, in time, as he recovered, some of the Pasta I had previously known began to return," Conway said. "By the time I brought him home from the clinic as a foster, he was once again the happy,



*The wheel cart and harness were designed to Pasta's exact measurements.*

mischievous boy I had formerly known. In fact, there was no stopping him. He immediately became adept at maneuvering about on his three legs with ease, running as fast as any four-legged hound."

Pasta started a routine of water therapy, visiting the pool of another GU volunteer

three days per week to swim — 18 laps, followed by relaxation on a float, followed by 18 more laps. Initially, he was afraid of the pool, but soon he began jumping in by himself. By the end of the summer, he built up his strength and became an accomplished swimmer.



Pasta grew into a large, energetic male with the bad habit of greeting people by standing up and placing his solitary front paw on their chest, shoulder, or back, depending on which direction he approached from. Obedience school was a necessary next step and Pasta was enrolled in basic training with **Mary Waugh Swindell**, a trainer in North Texas who teaches special classes for Greyhounds. He passed with flying colors, and Conway decided Pasta had already found his forever home, officially adopting him in October 2013.

“Today, he loves to run, swim, catch balls, and play with his Greyhound friends. He is an all-around athlete who lets nothing stand in his way to be the very best,” Conway said. “His enthusiasm for life is infectious.”

Like any other Greyhound, Pasta

likes to go to the local dog park to run. He runs extremely well and is just as fast as his four-legged friends, but he lacks stamina for walking and becomes tired after a short distance. Wanting to be able to walk Pasta in parks and the neighborhood, Conway began researching canine wheelchairs.

**Eddie’s Wheels**, a Massachusetts company, was founded by a couple who adopted two dogs born without front legs. They started their company in order to help dogs with forelimb disabilities, and were the perfect choice to custom-make a front-wheel cart tailored to Pasta’s measurements.

When the cart arrived, Swindell was enlisted to help introduce Pasta to his new wheels. Within an hour, Pasta was in the wheel cart harness and walking around. Conway continues Pasta’s practice



*Pasta was adopted by Sammye Conway, who fostered him through the surgery and recovery.*

sessions, and he is doing well with his new cart.

“Pasta has taught me so much about overcoming whatever obstacles that may



come along in life,” Conway said. “He lets nothing stand in his way from extracting the most joy out of life’s every moment, and sharing that joy with those around him. He inspires me every day. He is truly my hero.”

Pasta is still learning and slowly building the new muscle strength needed to use his wheels, but with Conway’s dedication and Pasta’s spirited approach to everything in life, there is no doubt in anyone’s mind that he will go the distance. ■

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*About the authors: Jim McIntosh is a longtime volunteer and foster for Greyhounds Unlimited, in Dallas. Stacy Pigott also volunteers and fosters for GU, and is editor-in-chief of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine.*



*View a video of Pasta*



# Mo Fun

The Greyhound spirit is brought to life at Moravian College.

*By Andrea Caudill*

*Photos by John Kish IV*

It's a dog's world at **Moravian College**, and the ruler of that world is the Greyhound, the college mascot.

Located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Moravian College has a storied history. The sixth-oldest college in the country, it traces its roots to a girls' school founded by the Moravians in 1742, and in its current form it stands as one of the leading liberal arts colleges in the nation. The school, which is about 60 miles north of Philadelphia, has approximately 1,500 students. Founding fathers George Washington and John Adams walked its campus, and famed

NASCAR driver John Andretti is among its graduates. Primarily undergraduate, Moravian offers bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees. The students might go on to medical or law school, excel in music careers, or have service careers such as teaching or nursing.

The school's mascot is the Greyhound, and students proudly refer to themselves as Hounds.

Bryon Grigsby is the president of Moravian. A 1990 graduate of the college, Grigsby returned in 2013 to lead the school.



*Mo, Moravian College's #1 Greyhound*



"I like that the student body has never changed," he observed. "It has always been a group of students who come from hardworking families. The children know how to work hard, they appreciate the commitment the faculty makes to them, and they rise to the challenge the faculty gives them. They come out as exceptional students, and have exceptional careers."

The school adopted the Greyhound mascot in the late 1930s. School legend tells that the school's team physician, Dr. Karl Hahn, was watching athletes train and said, "Those boys run as fast as a pack of Greyhounds!"

The Omicron Gamma Omega fraternity took up the mascot, and had a rescued Greyhound that lived in the fraternity house. They would release the hound at football games to lead the team onto the field — the Greyhound would sprint across the football

field both at the opening and halftime of the game.

When Grigsby accepted the mantle of his new job, he decided to make it fully encompassing.

"When I came on as president, I said, well, I've had lots of dogs before, but never had a Greyhound," he said. "My goal is to try to have a Greyhound."

And that's where **Kiowa June Lazy** soon to be named Mo, comes in.

### **Mo Better**

Grigsby is an experienced dog owner, having bred and raised Dalmatians and owned breeds from German Shepherds to Golden Retrievers. Greyhound ownership, though, was new.

Grigsby contacted one of the local

*Moravian College President Bryon Grigsby adopted Mo after returning to lead his alma mater, whose mascot is a Greyhound.*







*Bryon Grigsby frequently walks Mo around campus, and says Mo is a popular attraction among the student population.*



rescues, [Linda Ann's Greyhound Rescue](#) of nearby Allentown, Pennsylvania. He explained what personality traits he was looking for in a Greyhound and described the dog's environment. Then the

hardworking volunteer organization set their racing contact searching for the perfect fit.

When the perfect Greyhound was located, the rescue gave him a call. The large, dark fawn male Greyhound had raced at Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club and Derby Lane, winning five races and finishing second eight times in 46 starts.

"They said we think we have this Greyhound that would be perfect," he recalled. "(Mo) had broken his foot and was in a cast when I met him. They brought him over to the President's House, I got to greet him and decide if this is the dog that I would want. For Mo and me, this was love at first sight."

Mo, short for Moravian, was named by the students, and goes to work with Grigsby every day. He stays busy napping on his dog bed during office work and meetings, but eagerly awaits the chance to go out for a walk and a visit. The school has a policy which allows staff to bring screened dogs with them for office hours and approved classes,



giving Mo plenty of freedom.

“What I love about him is he’s very self-possessed, very comfortable in who he is,” Grigsby said. “He projects confidence. He’s not skittish at all; he loves greeting people. He just runs up to the students. It’s a wonderful personality that he has for the job he’s at.”

Mo visits students around campus and also welcomes them during Grigsby’s office hours.

“To be honest, I think the students come to open office hours not to see me, but to pet the dog,” Grigsby said with a laugh. “And there are so many levels of icebreaking that the dog does. If I’m walking with the dog, a student can come, pet Mo, and then ask me a question. Which they most likely wouldn’t do if I didn’t have the dog. It’s intimidating for an 18-year-old to come up and talk to the president, no matter how open the president is. But the dog provides that first step. There are so many ways he has helped shape my persona on the campus by being part of it.”

## Mascot and Volunteer

Mo not only serves as a mascot and an ice breaker, but he also takes up the job held by several of his predecessors of leading the sports team onto the field.

“He and another Greyhound run for the football game at the opening and halftime, from one corner of the stadium to the other, which is a big crowd pleaser — everyone says, ‘I can’t believe how fast those dogs are!’ Normally, Mo runs right past me into the marching band and cheerleaders, because he’s just an attention hound.”

It didn’t take Mo long to settle into his new life. In addition to duties that include napping and doing wind sprints around campus, Mo “has got the fastest tongue of any dog I’ve seen.” He helps himself to any unattended snacks during receptions and parties at the President’s House. “He’s kind of made himself at home,” Grigsby said.

In addition to his on-campus duties, Mo



*Grigsby thinks Mo serves as a great icebreaker for students wanting to talk to the school president.*

has also been helping students and raising awareness for his fellow Greyhounds with **Mo’s Fund**. Mo has several coats that he wears to events. These coats have pockets into which people can tuck donations, which are for school programs, such as a scholarship for current students who are in financial difficulty. Additionally, student groups have organized





*Mo not only attends sporting events, he participates in other campus activities as well, such as this freshman class walk of the “Moravian Mile.”*

fundraising campaigns selling t-shirts featuring Mo’s smiling face and slogans like “It’s ‘Mo’ better at Moravian.”

In less than a year, Mo has raised approximately \$14,000 for the school and Greyhound rescues.

## Hound Love

Mo’s winning personality has earned fast breed loyalty from his owner.

“It’s the lowest-maintenance dog I’ve ever had, and I think I’m never going back,” Grigsby said with a laugh. “The last dog I had

was a Golden Retriever and I thought, ‘Oh, this is the perfect dog for me.’ I’ve gotten used to Mo in the six months I’ve had him.”

He recounts how he visited a friend and their 1-year-old Golden Retriever.

“The Golden was all over me, ‘Hi hi hi!,’ and for the first 10 minutes it was fun, the next 10 minutes it was starting to get annoying and the next 40 minutes it was really annoying,” he said. “I couldn’t wait to get back to my Greyhound.”

Students are fast to fall for Mo’s laid-back, friendly charm, as well.

Grigsby recounts an evening near Halloween, when he took Mo out for a walk. They swung by the students’ Halloween party to say hello, then continued on to an enclosed park at the center of campus where Mo could stretch his legs with a quick run.

“He treats it like a racetrack. He does a figure eight around a statue and then around me,” Grigsby said.



As usual, Grigsby let Mo go, and watched as the hound began his traditional lap before breaking off course and heading straight for where the party was being held.

“I’m thinking he’ll come back,” Grigsby said of waiting for his dog. “What I didn’t know was the door (to the party) was actually open, and he ran into the party. He was in there hanging out with the students, and they started panicking that something had happened to me and Lassie had come back to get them. So they all come running out of the party, and there I am standing out there while he was in the party.”

The Greyhound ambassador has done great work on behalf of his breed.

“We have had students since then get Greyhounds because of how great he is with them and his personality,” Grigsby said.

Mo is so popular that he has his own

**Facebook** and **Instagram** pages, allowing students to stay in touch. Ghostwritten by Grigsby, it is yet another avenue allowing students to interact with both their mascot and their school.

“I have totally fallen in love with this breed,” Grigsby said. “Students just love him and love to be around him.

“Mo has a costume that is him in a graduation cap with a diploma,” Grigsby



continued. “The students for their graduation picture want Mo to be there. That’s the kind of impact he’s making.”

*Editor’s note: Mo suffered a spinal embolism in late April, paralyzing him temporarily. Immediate treatment at Valley Central Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center by Dr. Angela Gifford helped Mo through the ordeal, which even made the **local news**. In early June, Mo was able to return to “work” at Moravian College. ■*

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*About the author: Andrea Caudill is an editor and journalist who enjoys competing in equestrian sports with her American Quarter Horse, Matt. She lives in Amarillo, Texas, with her husband, James, where they rescue Cocker Spaniels and participate in therapy dog work.*



# The Galgo Español: They Are Not Greyhounds

Despite common references as the “Spanish Greyhound,” the Galgo is a unique breed of sighthound with its own characteristics

By Petra Postma



*Unlike the sprinting Greyhound, Galgos are bred for endurance.*



*Galgos and Greyhounds are two distinct and separate breeds of sighthound.*

While the Galgo Español, or Spanish Galgo, may appear similar to the Greyhound and is even sometimes called the Spanish Greyhound, it is its own breed. Although some cross-breeding may have occurred with Greyhounds after the 1930s, most rescued Galgos still show the characteristics of their unique breed.

Galgos are robust sighthounds bred for hunting hare in rough terrain. They may not be as fast as Greyhounds, but they have more endurance, which is needed to follow quarry for miles.

In general, Galgos are smaller than Greyhounds. The standard height for a Greyhound is 27–30 inches at the shoulder, while the Galgo Español’s shoulder height is often between 25 and 28 inches.



*A Galgo’s ears are generally larger with more flesh than a Greyhound’s ears.*





*Big feet and long toes help the Galgo navigate rough terrain.*

## **23 Celebrating Greyhounds**



*Galgos are naturally more agile than Greyhounds. Their narrower chest and higher tuck makes it easier for them to sit and jump.*



*An athletic Galgo in full flight is a beautiful sight.*



*A longer tail helps Galgos balance through tight turns at full speed.*



A Galgo's ears are usually a bit longer and fleshier than a Greyhound's; this protects them from being torn up by brush. Their eyes have a different shape and are set differently, but, take it from me, they do have the same melting effect when they look at you.

Galgos have big, strong feet with longer toes to get more grip in rough terrain. While both breeds have a deep chest, the Galgo's tuck is higher and his chest is not as wide. Combined with the flatter muscling, they do not look as square as our retired racers. They are more agile; it is natural and easy for them to sit and to jump. Some Galgo owners insist their Galgos can fly.

Galgos' tails are longer, helping them balance as they follow hares making sharp turns. And no, the wire-haired Galgo you met is not a mix; Galgos, from their origin, can be wirehaired.

The Galgo is often described as having more fire and intensity than a Greyhound. To Galgo owners, this translates to having more energy and being more playful. They may be hesitant to interact with strangers, but they really bond with their owners and love living in a pack. ■



*Galgos can be smooth-coated or wirehaired.*

*About the author: Until she moved to the U.S. four years ago, Petra Postma lived in the Netherlands and was heavily involved with Galgo rescue and adoption in Europe. These days, she still works for the Galgos through*

*her photography and through [Save A Galgo Espanol \(SAGE\)](#), an organization dedicated to educating through the Internet and seminars, to supporting Spanish rescue organizations, and to finding homes for Galgos in the U.S.*



# Similar, Yet Different

## Are Galgos simply Greyhounds who bark in Spanish?

By C. Guillermo Couto, DVM, dipl. ACVIM and Liliana M. Marín, DVM, MSc

**G**reyhounds and other sighthounds, such as Galgos, have hematologic and biochemical features that differ from dogs of other breeds; some of them are not well-known among owners and veterinarians.

In the complete blood count (CBC), these traits include higher packed cell volume (PCV), hemoglobin concentration (Hb), red blood cell count (RBC), whole blood viscosity, and shorter RBC circulating lifespan. Greyhounds also have lower white blood cell (WBC), neutrophil, and platelet (PLT) counts; and eosinophils (EOS) with unusual morphology, low total



*Greyhound*



*Galgo*



serum protein concentration due to low  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  globulin concentration, low serum IgA and IgM, and low acute phase protein (mainly haptoglobin) concentrations when compared to other breeds.

Greyhounds and most other sighthounds have additional physiologic differences including a larger heart size, a higher vertebral heart score, high glomerular filtration rate, high arterial blood pressure and functional relative aortic stenosis due to their large left ventricular size that results in a murmur.

To date, research has mainly focused on the physiologic and clinicopathologic peculiarities of Greyhounds and other sighthounds, but there are scarce published data for disease prevalence in most of the sighthounds. Some diseases, such

as tick-borne illnesses and hypothyroidism, are thought to be common, but no scientific data have ever confirmed their relevance. Furthermore, most of the publications pertaining to Greyhounds are studies done on retired racing Greyhounds (RRGs) at referral institutions or racetracks in limited areas throughout the U.S, or with anecdotal information derived from owners, adopters, or trainers, so the information may not be representative.

Breed-health surveys are a simple method to study disease prevalence in a subpopulation of dogs. We conducted a random sample survey on the type and



*Bizzie, adopted by Mike and Rebecca de Baca, of Mansfield, Texas.*

prevalence of diseases in RRGs in North America and in Galgos in North America and Europe. A secondary objective was to determine the main causes of death in these two sighthound breeds.



The sampling frame for the RRGs group consisted of a cohort of current subscribers to the international publication *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, and was **published**. The magazine publisher provided names and addresses of the subscribers. Email addresses from Galgo adopters from the Scooby Medina Animal Shelter in Spain (Medina del Campo, Valladolid) were provided to the authors by the shelter director. Adopters were contacted via email and also completed the survey voluntarily through a link provided.

### Causes of Death

The mortality rates for RRGs and Galgos within the two-year period were 15 percent (113/747 died) and 8 percent (13/169 died), respectively. For those 113 RRGs, the three most prevalent causes of death reported were cancer (two-thirds),

kidney disease, and bleeding disorders. Of the dogs who died of cancer, most had osteosarcoma (OSA). The most common cause of death in Galgos was also cancer. Approximately one-third of the dogs died from cancer, with only one dying from OSA). Kidney issues, bleeding disorders, and neurologic problems were also prevalent.

### Disease Prevalence

The most commonly reported groups of diseases/disorders in RRGs were dental, musculoskeletal, skin, gastrointestinal, kidney, and cancer, in that order. In contrast, the most common disorders in Galgos were dental, musculoskeletal, infectious, skin, and gastrointestinal.

Osteoarthritis was the most commonly reported musculoskeletal condition in both RRGs and Galgos. Bald thighs were reported as the most prevalent skin

disorder in both breeds. Not surprisingly, diarrhea was the most commonly reported digestive disease. “Hypothyroidism” was the most prevalent endocrine disease reported in RRGs but not in Galgos; this could reflect the high frequency of thyroid testing in the U.S., or it may indicate that Galgos have normal thyroid levels. Please remember that a low thyroid level (T4 or fT4) is normal in sighthounds, so these dogs were likely not hypothyroid!

The most common cardiovascular problem in both RRGs and Galgos was **heart murmurs** that, as we previously described, are normal in sighthounds. Vector-borne diseases (VBD) were three times more common in Galgos than in RRGs. The most prevalent VBDs were *Babesia canis* and *Ehrlichia canis* infections in RRGs, Lyme disease in American Kennel Club dogs, and *Ehrlichia canis* and *Leishmania infantum* in Galgos.



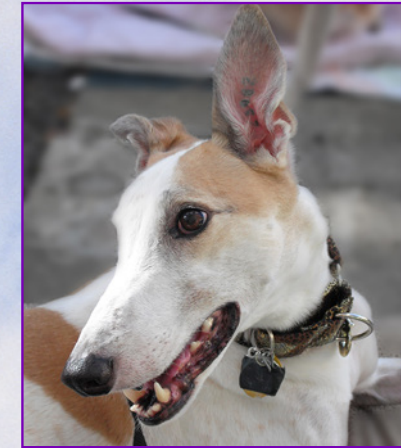
The prevalence of cancer was twice as high in RRGs as in Galgos (13 percent vs. 7 percent). As discussed above, OSA was the most prevalent form of cancer reported in RRGs, and there was only one Galgo with OSA. Hemangiosarcoma and mammary tumors were the most common neoplasms in Galgos.

In summary, although both breeds look similar, they have different diseases (and some biological differences). The mortality due to cancer in Galgos is about half of that in RRGs, and the prevalence of osteosarcoma in Galgos is almost zero. Due to the risk of infectious diseases such as leishmaniasis, which can stay dormant for a long time, re-testing Galgos a year or so after adoption is a good idea. ■

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*About the author: Dr. C. Guillermo Couto is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in the specialties of Internal Medicine and Oncology. He has co-authored the best-selling textbook, Small Animal Internal Medicine (Elsevier), has published more than 150 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, and has written more than 150 book chapters. He has 35 years' experience in clinical and comparative hematology, oncology, transfusion medicine, and clinical pathology, and is an expert in Greyhound and sighthound medicine. Couto's current affiliation is Couto Veterinary Consultants in Hilliard, Ohio, and The Greyhound Health Initiative™.*

# In Memoriam



## Reese (Deglawn Areesh) 2004-2014

Reese was adopted by Will Shumaker, in Tampa, Fla. He was featured on the cover of the Fall 2007 issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*, as well as in other issues throughout the years. Reese fought lymphoma for one year before losing his battle. "The loss of him has no words," Shumaker wrote.

With In Memoriam, we honor and bid farewell to the Greyhounds whose stories and images have graced previous issues of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*.



*Ask the Expert:*

# Why does my dog do that?

Is she being dominant, playful, or what? A foster Greyhound's interaction with a resident Greyhound is analyzed and explained.

*By Deb Levasseur CTB*

*Dear Deb,*

*After three weeks in my home, my foster Greyhound, a 2 and one-half year old brindle female, has started standing over my Greyhound, a 5-year-old fawn female. I first thought that this was a dominant behavior, but now I'm not so sure. The behavior sometimes results in play, but this time ended with a growl and a snap. The foster also stands over my 9-year-old cattle dog. Why has the foster suddenly started standing over the permanent residents in the house? Is this a behavior I need to stop?*

Fantastic video!

There is a lot of interesting dog behavior happening in this short clip. At first glance, many of us may think the brindle Greyhound is displaying dominant behavior. She is standing over and circling the fawn with her tail raised. She is continuously nudging, nibbling, biting, and placing her mouth over the

other Greyhound's mouth. The fawn Greyhound is lying down and showing her belly at times, making her appear more



*View a video of the behavior.*





*The brindle female in the video is Silly, who was in foster care at the time the video was shot. She has since been adopted by Kelsey Murphy, of Dallas, Texas.*

submissive. Some may also think the brindle is acting aggressively; others may think the fawn is showing aggressive behavior. However, in this situation, neither hound is displaying aggression. Both Greyhounds are communicating in a perfectly acceptable way for their species and have superb social skills.

When one dog stands over another dog, is that a dominance display? No! In fact,

dogs that simply stand over another dog are usually a less-assertive dog. If an assertive dog wanted to acquire a bed or specific area, she would simply walk over and the other dog would readily move. The assertive dog would not have to resort to standing over the other dog to get her to move. It is important to understand that dogs are not egocentric or status-driven creatures. Therefore, they do not actively seek to dominate other dogs or their human companions. Dogs assert themselves only for a highly valuable asset or if any vital resources become scarce. In the situation presented in the video, the brindle knows that standing over the fawn will not make her move. In fact, I have never seen this type of behavior succeed, but I do think, for some reason, they seem to enjoy it. The standing dog will eventually give up as the other dog is not shaken by this weak gesture. In this case, the fawn had no intention to move and the brindle had no interest in taking the exchange to the next level. Silly dogs!

How should we interpret the behavior occurring in this video? Here is a play-by-play of the encounter:

1. The brindle circles and walks over the fawn, who is lying on the floor.
2. The fawn starts to show stress by yawning, but does not get up. She is tolerating, but not enjoying the encounter.
3. The fawn lays her head down, giving the brindle a cut-off signal.
4. The brindle insists that they should play by licking and play biting the fawn.
5. The brindle was ready to give up when the fawn engages the brindle in play by raising her head and returning the play bite.
6. The fawn engages the brindle in play fighting intermittently. At 48 seconds, you will see the brindle trying to figure out if the fawn wants to play or not.
7. At 49 seconds, the fawn opens her mouth wide and the brindle returns with a



sharper bite. The fawn then decides to ignore the brindle for a bit to lower the intensity of their play fighting.

8. They continue with some low-intensity jaw wrestling, until the fawn decides again that she no longer wants to play.
9. At 1:23, the fawn clearly wants the session to end. The brindle misses this cue and continues to try to rouse the fawn with play nibbling.
10. When we see the fawn's mouth open up from 1:53 all the way until 2:03, we know the snap is coming. Observe the fawn puckering her muzzle, hardening her gaze, and tensing her lips. She even looks directly at where she is going to air snap before she does so. Dogs are very precise with their bites.
11. The fawn verifies that the brindle is alright after she delivers her correction. The brindle then apologizes to the fawn with a play bow.

These two Greyhounds are exhibiting



*The fawn female in the video is Gypsy, who lives with Celebrating Greyhounds Editor-In-Chief Stacy Pigott. Gypsy has helped train several fosters for Greyhounds Unlimited, in Dallas, Texas.*

excellent communication skills. Dogs are not always in the mood to play at the same time and it is normal for this type of

communication to occur. In this encounter, the Greyhounds never showed signs of aggression. For dogs who met three weeks ago, they are getting along amazingly well.

It takes time for dogs to build relationships, and their jaw wrestling indicates that they have already established a level of trust. Although puppies commonly jaw wrestle, adult dogs can be leery of engaging in this play activity with other adult dogs.

In answer to your questions, there is no need to stop this type of behavior. By getting involved in this situation, you could actually cause confusion and miscommunication between the dogs. This may hamper their budding friendship.

We can learn so much by developing our ability to observe and properly interpret canine behavior. Dogs are constantly communicating through their body language, although this can often be quite subtle. The average dog owner misses 90



percent of what their dog's body language is communicating. A great book on this subject is *Canine Body Language: a Photographic Guide*, by Brenda Aloff. For those in my local area, I also teach a course on canine communication and body language. There is so much to learn about dog behavior, but it is fun and rewarding to understand what makes your dog tick.

Do you have a question about a behavior that your Greyhound is exhibiting? Send your video to [editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org](mailto:editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org) and yours may be chosen for our next issue. ■

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*About the author: Deb Levasseur, CTB Canine Behavior Therapist and Trainer, is the President and Founder of *Maritime Greyhound Adoption Program*, based in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. This article may not be reprinted or distributed in whole or part without permission given from the author.*







# Bridesmaids, Groomsmen & Greyhounds

Getting married is one of the biggest days in a person's life, so it's no surprise that many Greyhound lovers choose to include their dogs in their weddings.

*By Stacy Pigott*

Summertime has hit North America, and with it talk of vacations, pool parties, and, of course, weddings. The National Center for Health Statistics cites June, July and August as the most popular months for weddings, with more than two million marriages a year in the U.S. alone.

Many brides and grooms will go to amazing lengths to make their wedding day perfect, and for some couples, the only thing that will make

their wedding day complete is their Greyhounds. From Greyhound-themed weddings to four-legged ring bearers, there are plenty of ways to incorporate a Greyhound or two into your weddings plans. *Celebrating Greyhounds* Magazine asked four brides to tell us their Greyhounds wedding stories and share their successes and failures as they planned and experienced their wedding days.



*Dingo the ring bearer*



## Bionca Caringi

We wanted to have our dogs in the wedding because they *are* our kids. We shopped around for the right venue that would allow them to be part of the wedding, before finally deciding on the beautiful Kortright Centre. We brought the dogs for the rehearsal the day before our wedding only to find the venue had changed its policy to “No Dogs Allowed.” We were outraged, and basically said the wedding would be cancelled if the dogs couldn’t take part. The staff made an exception, thank goodness!

Our wedding day was very cold and since the ceremony was outdoors, we had to keep the dogs warm before it started. We kept them in their coats and had them relax in the car, which was parked nearby. Apollo, our newest addition, is an extremely timid Greyhound. We were nervous about how he would do with all eyes on him.



*Bianca and Adam Caringi, with Greyhounds Quest (left) and Apollo, both adopted through After the Track Greyhound Adoption, in Ontario, Canada, and Chloe. Photo by Vince Capizzano*

When it was time, the dogs were taken out of their coats and we put on their bow ties and wedding attire. The dogs were led down the aisle by our groomsmen and bridesmaids. They were a hit! People loved them and they made our day whole.

Chloe, our people-loving Border Collie/Labrador Retriever mix, wanted to visit everyone while walking down the aisle,

which was a bit distracting, but adorable. While repeating the vows, Chloe groaned loudly, because she wanted to be let off-leash to play with our guests. I got distracted and completely forgot what I had to repeat! It made for a funny moment I will always remember.

The Greyhounds were amazing. They made me so proud. Apollo did a fantastic job of enduring the new sights and sounds, and Quest, our dapper little professional, got lots of attention and cuddles after the ceremony.

One drawback to it being so cold was we didn’t have the dogs in many pictures. Our friends took the dogs back home to warm up, eat, and nap while we continued with the pictures.

Here are a few tips I learned:

- Check venue policies before booking, and check often to ensure they have not changed.



- Determine who will be taking your dogs to and from the wedding, and designate a person to care for your dogs.
- Check to make sure your photographer is comfortable incorporating your dog in the photos.
- Ensure the person conducting your ceremony is comfortable with your dog participating.
- Bring your dog to the ceremony site prior to the wedding and also for the rehearsal to let him get comfortable with the location before the big day.
- Make a wedding kit for your dog, equipped with a coat, brush, extra collar, leash, treats, poop bags, and first-aid items.
- Make sure the person walking your dog down the aisle is comfortable with him and knows how to handle him if he becomes anxious or excited.

Having the dogs be part of our big day was a dream come true. It wasn't easy, because we worried a lot about how they would deal with all of the craziness and about how to get them to and from the wedding, but it was completely worth it! We are a family and we wouldn't have had it any other way.

### Debbie Safran

It was a rainy summer, but we were intent on getting married our way: outside, and with the dogs on July 31, 2009. Thankfully, the venue we chose had a lovely "Plan B" in case the weather, predictably, turned for the worse. Even though the rain stopped hours before our ceremony, the garden grounds were wet. Even with block heels (I knew better than to wear stilettos!), my shoes would have gotten stuck in the mud; our guests would have been eaten alive by

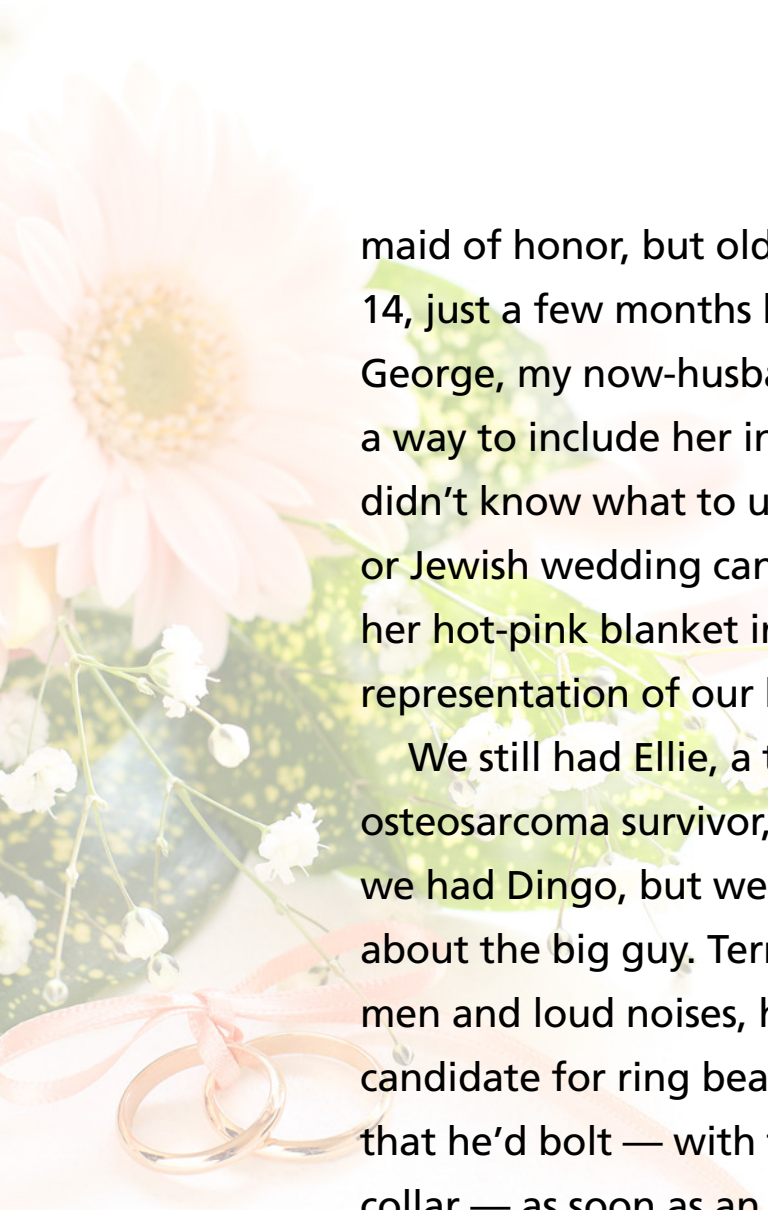


*Vishna, a Whippet, started to panic and didn't make it through the entire ceremony.*

mosquitoes. So yes, we got married inside a barn — a bright, festive barn.

We opted for a fairly small, intimate affair and no (human) attendants. I had always dreamed that Katie, my first Greyhound and heart dog, would be my





maid of honor, but old age claimed her at 14, just a few months before the big day. George, my now-husband, brilliantly found a way to include her in the ceremony. I didn't know what to use for our chuppah, or Jewish wedding canopy. He did, turning her hot-pink blanket into that symbolic representation of our home.

We still had Ellie, a three-year osteosarcoma survivor, holding strong, and we had Dingo, but we were a bit worried about the big guy. Terrified of strange men and loud noises, he wasn't the ideal candidate for ring bearer. Our friends joked that he'd bolt — with the ring still tied to his collar — as soon as an unfamiliar male face came into view, or if someone clapped.

But I wanted them there, and George agreed. So we ordered their wedding collars and continued to plan. In keeping with the theme, the dogs were dressed fairly simply

in Hope for Hounds collars and matching leashes to represent Ellie's battle against cancer. They wore hot-pink ribbons with little plastic flowers as tribute to Katie. And, of course, their hot-pink poop bags, were attached to their collars.

The next step was to hire a pet sitter. We asked a friend to help, figuring it would be a fairly easy role. All she had to do was drive the dogs to our home, just a few miles away, after the ceremony and the family photos.

The clock struck five and guests began to arrive, including the dog sitter. Ellie and Dingo were fine, but once we all made our way into the barn, our cocky little Whippet, Vishna, started to panic — pushing, pulling, and wriggling as best she could, trying to get out of her collar and out of that barn. She almost did it, too. "I'll be right back!" George said, as the ceremony was about to begin. He left me — at the altar — to hand

troublesome Vi over to our trusty friend. (He came back.)

"The worst flower girl ever," I like to tell friends. But don't worry; she left her mark... on the front of my wedding dress.

Want your dogs to be part of your special day? Here are a few lessons we learned:

- If you are planning an outdoor wedding, make sure your backup plan is also dog-friendly. We looked at one venue that was absolutely gorgeous — we could have had a Vermont beach wedding at sunset. Dogs were allowed on the beach, but not in any of the buildings. That meant if the weather forced us to move the ceremony into the social hall, we would have been without our bridal party. Given the summer we had that year, I'm glad we opted for a different site.



- Hire a pet sitter. We knew we wanted the dogs in the ceremony, but not at the dinner. It would have been too much to ask of anyone. The original plan was scrapped due to Vishna's panic attack, and we were fortunate the sitter came early.
- Don't panic when the dog jumps on your wedding dress. Yes, "when" and not "if." Dogs don't care that you are wearing a very expensive white gown. (I have to admit; I kind of love the little paw print on my dress.) All they know is there is a lot of fuss and commotion. They might panic, they might get excited, and they will jump.

Update: George Rooney and Debbie Safran quietly renewed their vows at Grapehounds a year after their wedding. The canine bridal party was all there, including Ellie, a four-year cancer survivor who passed away later that year. Because it was a small affair, Vishna even made it through the ceremony.



*Argos made a perfect ring bearer. Photo by Sarah Keenan Photography*

### Liz Smith

We never considered the possibility of *not* including our Greyhound, Argos, in our wedding. When I first moved into the house across the street from my future husband, his Greyhound was a great excuse to stop and talk. Unknown to me, Lee was training Argos

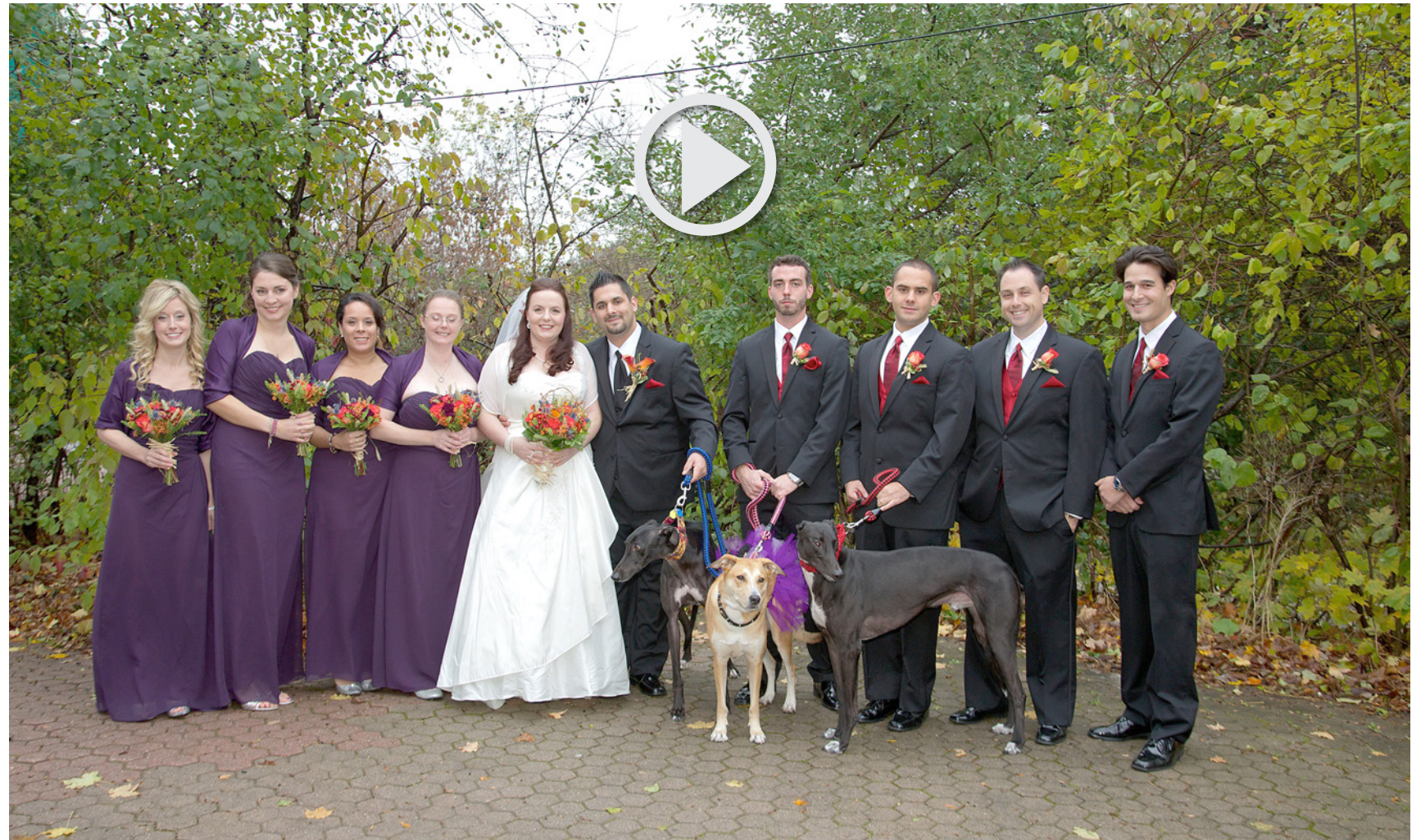
to walk a circle around me every time we got close and tangle me up in the leash, *101 Dalmatians*-style. Soon, I was taking Argos for walks while Lee was at work. Eventually I started bringing Argos to my house when Lee worked overnight — partially because I didn't want the dog to be alone all night and partially because that made Lee come see me in the morning to get his dog back. Fast-forward three years, and Argos carried our rings down the aisle. His lady friend, Classy, was the flower girl.

Here are some things we learned about including dogs in a wedding:

- Write down exactly who is supposed to have the dog where and when. Have multiple copies. While everyone else can probably remember their parts in the wedding, your Greyhound probably won't, and even if he did, how would he tell his guide if they were in the wrong spot?



- Ditto for any special attire. Make a list of what your Greyhound is to wear, and if any regular collars or leashes are to be swapped for fancy ones. Argos ended up wearing his fancy wedding collar and his regular collar because I didn't specify to his walkers that the regular one could be removed.
- Use a leash. Most Greyhounds feel more confident on the leash, and if you're outside, it's a must. If it's an indoor wedding, it's probably best to have designated escorts for the dogs, rather than letting them walk down the aisle alone. In this instance, a short leash is better than a long one.
- Use people with whom the dog is familiar as the escorts. Have them practice walking together at the actual wedding location in the days leading up to the wedding. If your Greyhound is unfamiliar with the location, he or she will want to stop and sniff everything.



*Want more wedding photos? Watch the slideshow to see more pictures of hound-friendly nuptials.*

- Depending on the location and weather, make sure you have shade and water for your dog. You may need to take pictures with the dog first, so he can be on his way to a nap sooner rather than later. Or consider taking the pictures with the dog at a different time of the day.
- For great pictures, give someone your Greyhound's favorite toy or other object that will get his attention, and have that person stand by the photographer. Argos can recognize the crinkly sound of a treat bag from a mile away, which also means that a reward is always at the ready.



- Have the escort walk your dog just before the wedding starts. He will be more comfortable and less likely to “water” any flowers for you. Argos was so comfortable, he decided the 10-minute ceremony was too long, and had to lie down.

### Musette Hood

My husband, Rob, and I were married on March 1, 2013. It was the second marriage for both of us, and we decided to go the more romantic approach and have a small ceremony outside in a gazebo on the Rollins College campus in Winter Park, Florida. Rob has a 10-year-old daughter, Madison, from his first marriage and really wanted to include her in the wedding. I have four Greyhounds. My first one, Tally, is my heart dog and I couldn't imagine having a wedding without her. So, we agreed that if his daughter was there, mine would be, too.

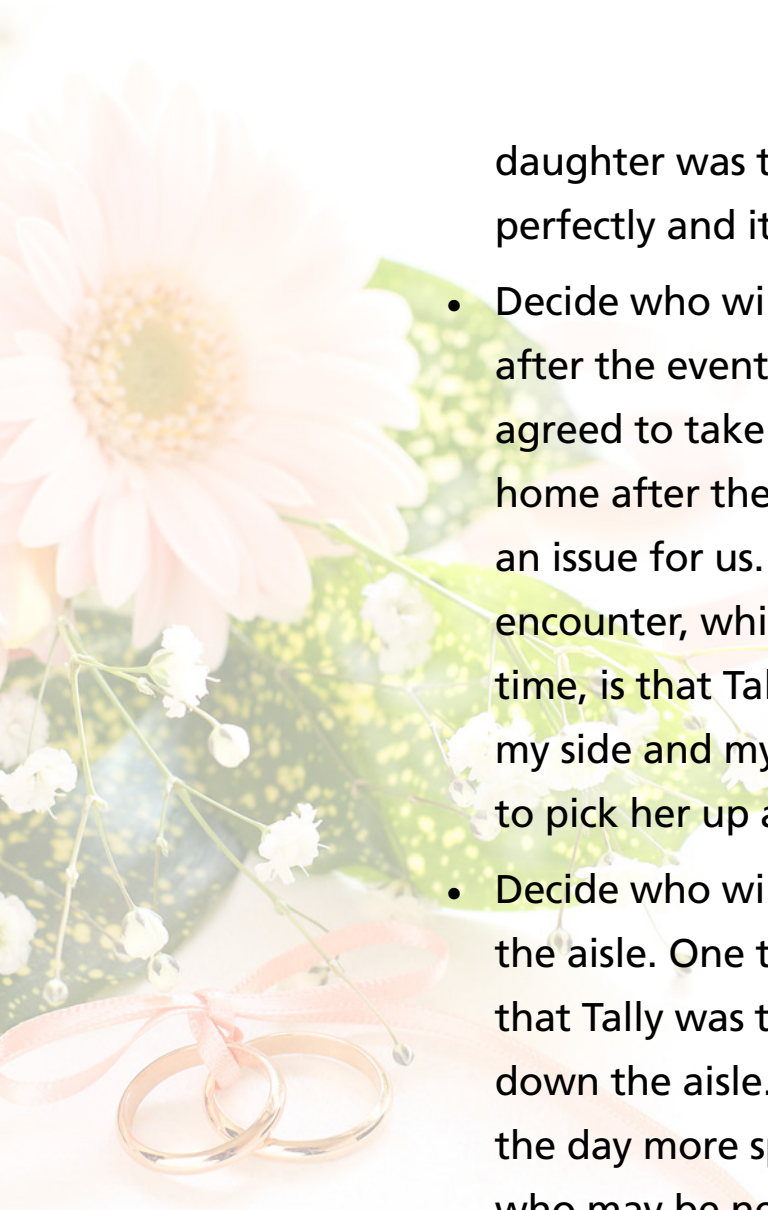


*Musette Hood cherishes her wedding photos that include Tally. Photo by Misty Miotto*

Having Tally in the wedding truly made the whole thing more special and the photos with her are truly magnificent. Here are some things we took into account in order to include Tally.

- Talk to the photographer. Find a photographer who is good at taking photos with dogs, and is OK with including them in the photos. Our photographer warned us that photos with dogs are more challenging and time-consuming because many dogs do not cooperate. Determine how many photos of your dog you want ahead of time and discuss any poses you'd like with the photographer. One of the things I thought was so wonderful is that most people never have an opportunity to look their very best and have their photo taken with their pets. In my opinion, a wedding is that perfect opportunity, and I will forever cherish the wedding photos that include my beloved Tally.
- Decide early who will be in charge of handling the hounds during the event. Make sure someone is assigned to hold the dog during the ceremony. As Rob's





daughter was there, she fit the bill perfectly and it also kept her occupied.

- Decide who will take the dog home after the event. A friend of mine happily agreed to take both Madison and Tally home after the wedding, so this was not an issue for us. The only problem we did encounter, which was very funny at the time, is that Tally did not want to leave my side and my friend ended up having to pick her up and carry her to the car!
- Decide who will walk the dog down the aisle. One thing I really liked was that Tally was there when I walked down the aisle. Not only did that make the day more special, but for anyone who may be nervous, walking down the aisle having your dog there definitely eases that tension.
- Determine if the dog will be with the bride or groom while he/she is getting

ready. I got ready for the wedding at my friend's house. Tally was with me during the whole thing and she behaved perfectly. For me, having her with me all day really made it feel like she was truly a part of the big day. If you want to do the same thing, make sure the dog is well-behaved enough to be there for that long without your constant attention, and make sure the place you get ready is OK with having dogs there, too. Make sure the dog has access to water, food if it is during the normal feeding time, and maybe even a dog bed to lie on. Don't forget to make sure there is a way for the dog to get to the ceremony. Fortunately, it was easy getting Tally into my sport utility vehicle to ride to the ceremony; I was the one who had difficulty getting in with my wedding dress on!

- Decide what the Greyhound will wear for the big day. It was a bit chilly on our big day so I had a beautiful new dog jacket on Tally. I also added a faux-fur collar and some pearls to truly doll her up. And, of course, she had a new collar and leash to match.
- Finally, remember why you want your dog to be a part of the big day. If something goes less than perfectly, you will most likely laugh it off in the end and mostly just be forever grateful that your furry loved one was able to share your big day with you. ■



# Brothers Forever

Two siblings reunite in the same suburb after being adopted by different families.

By Ashley Farrell

Every retired racer comes with a story, some more uncommon than others. Little did I know that the Greyhound we would adopt would have such a story.

My family and I went to the Erie County Fair and saw the Greyhounds. That was it! I knew I wanted one right then and there. We talked about it and agreed to submit an application for adoption. So about a week later we submitted our application. Within a short time, we had our home visit from [Buffalo Greyhound Adoption \(BGA\)](#).

The first time we saw Greyhounds in our house, it was a little shocking how large they actually are. They certainly don't look

that big when they're in a mall or at the fair. After the visit, I couldn't wait to get our Greyhound. Because we already had an Italian Greyhound, I knew we may have to wait a bit longer to find a hound tolerant of small animals. I was wrong. Exactly two weeks after the home visit, we had our Greyhound, Zeke.

When BGA brought Zeke home to us on that Monday night in September, we already knew he was retired

a few months prior because he broke his right rear leg. I remember being sad that the Greyhound we were getting had fractured his



*Buffalo Greyhound Adoption reunited Zeke, wearing his green track collar, and his brother Otis for what they thought would be the last time before Zeke went to his new home with Ashley Farrell.*





*Zeke quickly settled into his new home with the Farrells.*

leg. Luckily for Zeke, it wasn't bad enough to require surgery and the bones healed on their own. Before BGA left us with Zeke, we found out that his biological brother, Otis, was recently adopted by a couple in Hamburg, New York. Otis had also broken his right rear leg in the exact same spot. Unfortunately for Otis, his break was too severe to heal on its own and his leg needed surgical repair. He went to his new family with a wire in his rear leg to correct the fracture.

When I found out that Zeke's brother was in town, I wanted to get in touch with Otis' family. It took longer to get in touch with Josh and Janine Taylor than I had hoped. Unfortunately poor Otis had once again fractured his leg stepping off the patio, and was on his way back to Wheeling, West Virginia, for another surgery — this time to put a plate in his leg to help heal the break. I heard from Josh for the first time in early December. He sent pictures of Otis and a note saying that he would be coming home to

Hamburg about 10 days prior to Christmas.

As I read Josh's email, all I could think was how sad it must have been to adopt this sweet, loving Greyhound and then have to give him up, albeit temporarily, almost immediately. Then I opened the pictures he sent. Wow! These dogs are spitting images of each other. One of the pictures showed Otis and Zeke together. I discovered in the email, the brothers were reunited about a week before Zeke came to us. Josh said that they remembered each other immediately and that it was great to have them back together again. If it wasn't for the fact that Zeke still had his track collar on, there is no way I would have been able to tell which dog was which. It was at that moment I hoped we would have the chance to bring the brothers back together again. A few months passed without exchanging emails, as we were both busy. Zeke was living the life of a spoiled-rotten Greyhound with us. Otis was recovering with Josh and Janine and





*Otis went through a couple of operations to fix a broken leg before he could be reunited with Zeke again.*

beginning to feel like himself again.

In mid-February, I learned that BGA would be hosting a bubble bath fundraiser. I made plans to take Zeke. A day after making the appointment, I received a surprise email from Josh, updating me on the newest with Otis. The best part of the email was when I

discovered that Josh was bringing Otis to the bubble bath and would be staying to reunite Otis with his brother.

I only had to wait a week to reunite them, but that week felt like months. I couldn't wait to see what they would do with each other. Even if Zeke thought of Otis as just another Greyhound, I still wanted to see Otis in person to see how much he looked like his brother (or his brother looked like him — Otis is the first in the litter). I also wanted to see if they had any of the same mannerisms.

Putting Zeke in the car on the day of the bubble bath event, was like any other car ride to him. We opened the back and he jumped right in, ready to go wherever the car took him. Zeke loves car rides, but he gets up every time the car stops to look out the window and tries to figure out why we stopped and how soon we'll move again. Needless to say, this happened more than

any other trip because we were venturing farther from home. After what seemed like an eternity, we finally pulled into Paws in the Pantry. We opened the lift gate to let Zeke out and as usual, he jumped right out and was ready to go.

We opened the door to take him in for his bath. Around the corner we found Otis and Josh, waiting patiently for us. When I saw Otis, he looked even more like his brother in person than he had in any of the pictures I'd seen. We took Zeke right up to Otis. I saw them look at each other with immediate recognition. After so many months of being apart, the fact that they remembered each other was enough to make it worth the wait to reunite them once again. We gave Zeke and Otis time together to see what they would do. They didn't venture far. They mostly just stood next to each other and looked at the spitting images of themselves.



At one point, their leashes were tangled and I couldn't tell which dog was mine.

After Zeke got his bath, it was time to go home again. Otis was getting tired and we could tell his leg was starting to hurt from standing for so long. So we took the dogs into the parking lot to get back in the car. Trying to get Zeke in the car wasn't as easy as when we had left home. I have never seen Zeke resist the car as much as he did then. It was almost as though he wanted to go with Otis and couldn't understand why he wasn't able to. Otis even seemed to want to come home with us and Josh had to lead him away from our car and into his own.

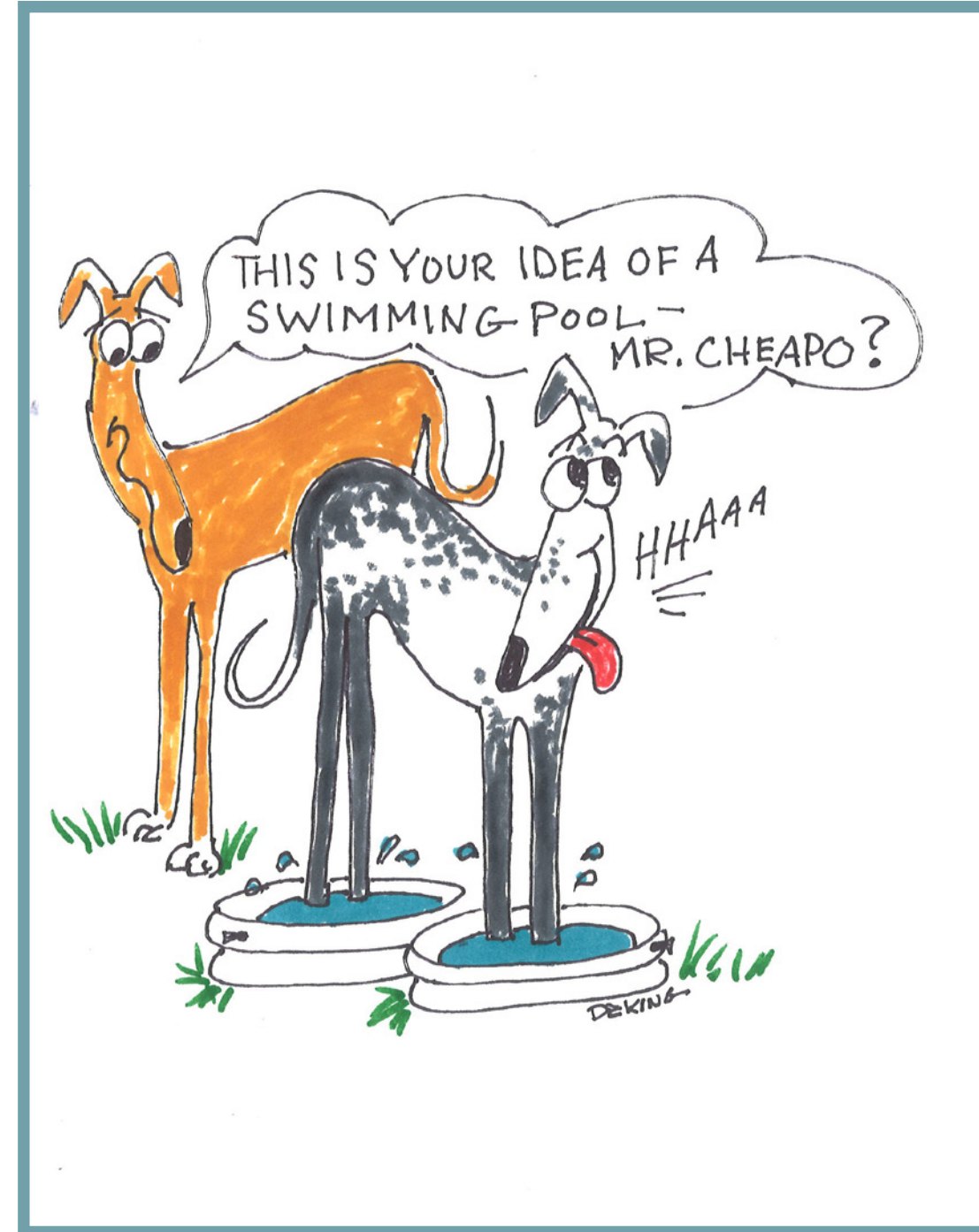
We plan to stay in touch with Josh and Janine and to bring the brothers together every chance we get. Since we've had Zeke, I wondered what Greyhounds were like around their siblings. Even though we have an

8-year-old Italian Greyhound, Mojo, at home, Zeke's interaction with Mojo is far different than it is with his own, true, brother.

I know that our situation is uncommon in that it is not often that siblings get retired and sent to the same adoption agency, let alone placed in a suburb of the same city. I would have been happy with any Greyhound that BGA brought to us. But getting the chance to take Zeke and discover his exceptional story, along with that of his brother, has been something I will never forget. ■

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*About the author: Ashley Farrell lives in Clarence Center, New York, with her parents, youngest brother and two dogs. They have had Mojo, an Italian Greyhound, for eight years and in September 2013, adopted our retired racing Greyhound, Zeke.*







*Jan Campbell helps with kennel turnouts at Northern Greyhound Adoptions in St. Albans, Vermont.*

# One Volunteer's Story

From kennel volunteer to board member — a volunteer gives a behind-the-scenes look at a busy adoption group in Vermont.

*By Jan-Ives Campbell*

I can hear them as soon I open my car door: the barking and rooing — a combination of howling and singing that is the breed's trademark — can be heard through the walls and carries across the parking lot. I have arrived for my turnout shift at **Northern Greyhound Adoptions (NGA)** in St. Albans, Vermont. Walking to the entrance, I pass a bench engraved with the name Donald Westover, given in tribute to a man who meant so much to the nonprofit organization.

Donald and his wife, Dorothy, founded the kennel in October 2001. For years, he

spent his weekends introducing potential adopters to dogs and answering questions about life with sighthounds. His passion for the breed was evident, his enthusiasm was infectious. Many hounds found homes because Donald went the extra mile to make adopters feel comfortable about the dogs and the adoption process.

Those who met him remember Donald fondly. He was a big man with a big heart, and he continued to carry the torch for NGA even after being diagnosed with emphysema, often attending adoption events with an oxygen mask in tow. His





*Jan's involvement has expanded from volunteer kennel help to board member at NGA.*

first priority was always the Greyhounds — that was never in question.

He remained active with the nonprofit as much as he could, even as his health deteriorated. He made it a priority to bring a Greyhound and a donation bin to a local pet supply store every week. Now that he has passed, his devilish charm, his hound, and his donation jar are absent. NGA is feeling his loss in many ways.

I am here to let the Greyhounds out of their kennels, in groups and by themselves, for bathroom breaks. This is one of four daily chances for the retired racers to stretch their long legs and for their mini apartments to be cleaned. While they frolic in the yard and take care of their doggy business, I check their kennels and change their bedding when necessary.

It's a busy shift, letting 42 dogs out and keeping the process steadily moving

along. I know how cranky I would be if I was dependent on another being to allow me to go to the bathroom. The number of dogs in need of permanent homes swells at times to as many as 70. This humble kennel in northern Vermont has never turned away a Greyhound in need.

I have just added another function to my volunteer service. I am now a member of the board of directors. I am privy to the financial aspect of the nonprofit and often wish I weren't. The charity runs on the generosity of others, through donations and the other fundraising endeavors. The coffers are always low and the kennel seems to run on a month-to-month basis. Rent, utilities, and vet bills take their toll on the threadbare finances and I wonder if some catastrophe would push the charity to the breaking point. The board has frequent meetings to



discuss fundraising strategies in order to survive the cold months. The financial survival of the kennel is a constant struggle.

However, I gain strength from the dogs. The mental burden of my role as a board member fades and my excitement rises as I care for these beautiful animals. My worries and fears diminish as I look into the face of the first Greyhound I let out of his apartment. I take a minute to scratch Toby's enthusiastic brindle face. I lean close and say to him, "I missed you, buddy." He leaps out and runs around the kennel with wild abandon and I have no doubt he missed me, too.

I have since adopted Toby, after the passing of my non-Greyhound, Andy. Toby was stigmatized with an undeserved label of "anxious." Over the three years I knew him at the kennel, he was adopted and returned twice. Allegedly, his high

anxiety resulted in him howling and tearing apart his adopters' houses. I was a little anxious myself when I left him alone for the first time, but when I returned he was sitting comfortably on the couch.

I can't speak to his experience in the other homes, but perhaps because he knew me, Toby was less anxious. I was there every week, and I suspect he knew I would return. I'm glad I did. ■

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*About the author: Jan-Ives Campbell, who goes by Jan, is a creative writing major pursuing a bachelor's degree at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont. Jan is a published graphic novelist, and when not writing, he volunteers at Northern Greyhound Adoptions in St. Albans, Vermont, where he also sits on the board of directors. Once in a while he gets to combine his love of writing and his love of Greyhounds.*



*Hunter, adopted by Carrie Hill of Downingtown, Pa.*



# Lure Coursing 101: Part 2

Part 1 of this two-part series got you and your Greyhound ready. Now it's time to experience your first lure coursing event.

*By John Parker*

While your Greyhound is getting in shape, take him to a practice or a field trial and let him watch. Former racers, by virtue of their track training and racing career, are used to chasing a lure that does not make sharp turns. Consequently, they may not be accustomed to slowing down enough before they make a turn. Taking a turn at full speed may be asking more of a toe joint or foot bone than it was designed to take.

Let your Greyhound watch at least one field trial, both the preliminary and the final runs of Greyhounds. Letting him watch at a second field trial is even better. You can have him watch the runs of other breeds,

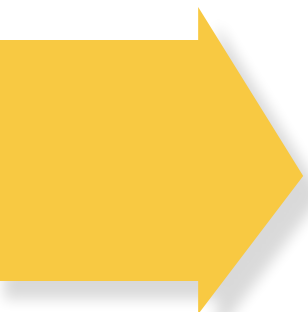


*Running in a muzzle in lure coursing is optional. Some owners run their Greyhounds in muzzles to make it easier to retrieve them from the lure at the end of the course. Photo by Linda Earley*

but make sure you get him out of sight of the lure for periods of rest at a field trial. You do not want him too excited and

barking at the lure all day. I have become convinced that by letting our Greyhounds watch, former racers can learn that the





movement of the lure is not like the lure on a track, and they will go onto the lure coursing field better prepared for the game.


Once your Greyhound has watched, and is in shape to run, it's time to run him alone. He can either run in the Singles stake of the regular trial or in practice at the conclusion of the trial. To find out about lure coursing trials in your area, visit the [National Lure Coursing Club's Facebook page](#) or the [American Sighthound Field Association's \(ASFA\) website](#). You can also ask your adoption group to refer you to a local lure coursing club or an adopter who has become active in lure coursing.

Letting your Greyhound run alone enables the lure operator to run the lure just for him. Always tell the lure operator that you are practicing a new off-the-track Greyhound, and ask him to keep the lure well ahead of the dog. That way your hound won't be surprised by a sudden quick turn of the lure and try to take a turn at top speed.



*Archie (Wing Walk), a coursing-bred Greyhound from England. Coursing Greyhounds typically are stockier than racing Greyhounds. Archie is in good weight and fitness for lure coursing.*





When running alone, I prefer the Singles stake over practice. In the Singles stake, your Greyhound will run alone twice during the trial, will be scored by the judges, and will be eligible to win ribbons, but cannot run with other dogs for Best of Breed or Best in Field.

Some contend that the Singles stake is just expensive practice,” because the typical entry fee for Singles is \$15 as opposed to the usual \$2 to \$5 that most clubs charge for practice, but I disagree entirely. Running your Greyhound in the Singles stake will assure him two runs. During practice he will only get one run at the end of the day, when many hounds may be waiting to run while daylight is fleeting. Singles stake will also help you get accustomed to knowing when and how to get your Greyhound ready for his course and will help you understand the information on score sheets.



*Wrapping the lower legs (not the feet or toes) can protect the dew claws and the legs from contact with the continuous loop lure line. It should be removed after each run.*

### **The First Field Trial**

When you have selected the field trial you want to attend to let your Greyhound watch, try to commit the day so that you can see roll call, inspection,

and the preliminary and final runs. At a minimum, bring the following to the first field trial: a folding chair for yourself, and drinking water and a water bowl for your Greyhound. If you have a crate that





*Close-up on equipment: a leather quick-release sliplead and the type of coursing muzzle favored in Ireland -- it is lightweight and very comfortable for the Greyhound.*

fits in your vehicle, bring it. It is a great place for your Greyhound to rest and relax out of sight of the lure, and will be a nice break for you as well. Don't leave your Greyhound unattended and uncrated in a vehicle, even at a cool weather field trial. The damage a lure-excited Greyhound can

inflict on the interior of a car is a wonder to behold. In warm weather, it's a good idea to bring your own shade in the form of an inexpensive picnic canopy, as some fields have limited shade.

If your Greyhound has his dew claws (the nails about a third of the way up the foreleg), purchase cohesive bandages, such as Vetrap or CoFlex, at a pet supply store. This non-adhesive bandaging wrap is an excellent covering for the dew claws to keep them from getting caught in the lure line. It can also provide some protection of the legs from cuts or abrasions by the line if continuous loop lure (as opposed to drag lure) is used by your local club. Before your Greyhound runs his first course, ask a lure coursing veteran at the trial to show you how to wrap the dew claws. The wrapping should be done shortly before the run, and cut off shortly after.

Your Greyhound should be fed about

one-half or less of his normal morning ration early on the morning of a lure coursing event to avoid the risk of gastric torsion, commonly known as bloat. He should not be fed for several hours after his runs.

Before you enter your Greyhound in official competition in a field trial, take some time to review and develop an understanding of the running rules. One of the most important things to remember is to communicate with the Field Trial Secretary, the member of the Field Committee who is responsible for determining which dogs run together and in which order the various breeds run. If for any reason you decide to withdraw your Greyhound after the preliminary run, be sure and let the Secretary know that your dog is "scratched." It's a serious breach of lure coursing etiquette to simply leave the field and not communicate your dog's





*At his first lure trial, let your Greyhound watch several courses before he runs a practice course. (These Greyhounds were on lead, but their leads were Photoshopped out for portrait purposes.)*

withdrawal to the Secretary.

When you arrive at the field trial, and after the trial is underway, locate the Field Trial Chairman and introduce yourself as a “new Greyhound person” who wants to learn more about lure coursing. Inquire about getting on his club’s mailing list for the trial programs, known as premium

lists. Also ask him to introduce you to a veteran Greyhound lure courser who likes to help new people get started. There are plenty of people like that at field trials — it’s one of lure coursing’s finest traditions.

### **The First Run**

When it’s time for your Greyhound’s first run, ask this lure coursing veteran to get you set up with a siplead and show you how to use it. Most lure coursing clubs usually have loaner sipleads and lure coursing blankets. Also, ask him to explain release and retrieval procedures.

When the lure is moving during the other dogs’ runs, make sure that you have a good hold on your Greyhound. Don’t let him out the full length of the lead, as a lure-excited Greyhound can most assuredly back out of even a martingale collar at that distance. If he does get away from you during a run, call out, “Loose dog!” in a loud voice to alert the lure operator

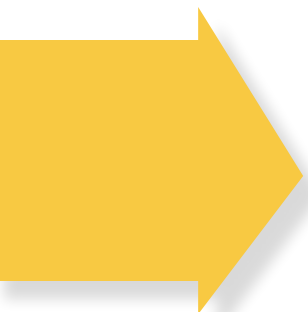
that he should stop the lure to avoid a mid-field collision. By tradition, most clubs impose a \$5 fine on the owner of a loose hound, but the embarrassment is always worse than the fine.

When your Greyhound is called up for his course, don’t hesitate to ask the Huntmaster, or the starter, for help with the siplead or release procedures. If your dog won’t run when the “Tally ho!” is called, don’t despair; just run along with him and encourage him for the first few yards. More often than not, that will help “push the button,” and your Greyhound will take off, confident that it’s okay to chase the bunny.

### **After the Run**

After the run, take your hound for a cool-down walk for 10 to 15 minutes. This will help prevent muscle cramping and will give you a chance to observe any change of gait and do a once-over inspection of





your Greyhound's feet and legs. If it's a warm day, wet your Greyhound down, paying particular attention to his chest, inner thighs, and feet. (It's also a good idea to wet him down before the run.) Wait until his breathing has slowed down somewhat before allowing him to drink water, and make sure he has plenty of fresh water thereafter. Don't forget to cut the wraps off his legs.

### Getting Certified

If you and your Greyhound have enjoyed lure coursing so far, you're ready to get him certified to run with other Greyhounds in regular field trials. Certification means that a licensed lure coursing judge has watched him run with another Greyhound over a course of at least 500 yards, that he completed the course, and that he did not interfere with

the other dog. If the former owner or trainer of your Greyhound told you that he was "ticketed" for interference at the track, don't give up on ever lure coursing him — that doesn't necessarily mean that he will interfere on the lure coursing field. However, it would be a wise precaution in such a case to put a racing muzzle on him before he runs with another dog, just to make sure that no nipping takes place.

If your Greyhound successfully completes his certification run, the judge will sign the "Hound Certificate" provided to you by the host club. On the form should be written your dog's name, as registered with the National Greyhound Association (NGA), and his NGA certificate and volume numbers. Keep the "Hound Certificate" among your Greyhound's other records. When you enter him in the Open stake in his first regular field trial,

you must attach a copy of the "Hound Certificate" to the entry form, keeping the original for your records.

If your Greyhound doesn't get certified the first time, don't give up. Continue running him alone for a few more field trials in Singles or in practice. Many Greyhounds learn through repetitive practice to concentrate on the lure and not on chasing their running mates. If he continues to interfere, continue to enter him in the Singles stake. I have one Greyhound who ran most of her career in the Singles stake. We enjoyed lure coursing together just as much as the Greyhounds running with competition.

I hope this article has given you a realistic perspective of what it takes to properly involve your Greyhound in the sport of lure coursing, but hasn't scared you off. If your Greyhound is an





*See what lure coursing looks like in this short video clip.*

appropriate candidate for the sport, and you are willing to make the investment of time and are interested in preparing him, lure coursing can be a wonderful bonding experience for you and your Greyhound.

There is no doubt that both hound and human will enjoy themselves immensely. Have a safe, fun, and exciting lure coursing experience. "Tally ho!" ■

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*About the author: John Parker adopted his first former racing Greyhound in 1994 and has owned Greyhounds of all types since then. He is President of the **Southeastern Greyhound Club** and Chairman of the Advisory Board of its adoption program, GPA-Atlanta/Southeastern Greyhound Adoption. He has been actively involved in lure coursing since 1995, and is a member of the Coursing Hounds Association of the Southeast and the Apalachee Coursing Club. He has served on the Boards of the National Lure Coursing Club and the American Sighthound Field Association. John and his wife, Laura, live with their 12 Greyhounds and two Whippets on SummerWind Farm in Newnan, Georgia.*





*Cutie Pie taught Christine MacDonald the value of Greyhounds as therapy dogs.*

# Cutie Pie's Legacy

**A special Greyhound named Cutie Pie taught everyone around her how perfect Greyhounds can be as therapy dogs.**

*By Christine MacDonald*

When a Greyhound looks at me, all I see is a smile. When a Greyhound walks by me, all I see is a most majestic animal. When a Greyhound leans his head upon my lap, all I feel is love.

Over the last several years, I have had the privilege of teaching a Greyhound specialty class at **Especially for Pets** in Westborough, Massachusetts. During that time,

I have helped new Greyhound handlers understand the breed and helped the Greyhounds to acclimate to their new homes. Greyhounds are definitely a breed of their own and are so willing to adjust to a new life. My love for this breed has grown so much over the years. They look at you with that sweet smile and you cannot help but fall in love.

I am so lucky that I am able





*Christine MacDonald's Greyhound obedience class is geared toward newly adopted hounds and their owners. Pictured, from left to right, are: Maureen Woundy, of Marlboro, Massachusetts, with Hank; Christine MacDonald; Corissa Mantooth, of Revere, Massachusetts, with Padfoot; and Jim McLarney, of Natick, Massachusetts, with Gansett.*

## **56 Celebrating Greyhounds**

to work with dogs the way I do. I teach dog training classes and I am the volunteer program coordinator and evaluator for **Pets & People Foundation**, a pet therapy non-profit group. While working with Greyhounds, I discovered that they are perfect for the pet therapy world. They are nice and tall for folks in wheelchairs and beds. They look great when you dress them up, and their gentle nature melts everyone's hearts.

Many years ago, I met a most special Greyhound called Cutie Pie. She and her family came to my Greyhound specialty class. Within a short time, Cutie Pie's handler and I could see the special gift this Greyhound had, and we worked together to get her certified as a therapy dog.

Cutie Pie's debut as a therapy dog was magnificent. She walked into a





*Tasha, adopted by George and Naty Sayler, makes regular therapy visits to a home for developmentally challenged adults.*

room full of elderly people and they all gasped with delight. They marveled at her soft ears and how long she was when she would lay down. They enjoyed the stories of her time at the racetrack, which got some of the gentlemen involved — men who would not usually chat. There was one woman who was not sure what she should do with this big dog. Cutie Pie just took the cue and laid her head on the lady's lap, as if to say, "This is what to do: Pet me." Everyone smiled, laughed, and begged for her to return. Cutie Pie was a weekly visitor until she had to stop due to health issues.

Over the last several years, we have had more Greyhounds join our pet therapy organization. We are now 160 volunteers strong with six of them





*Carolina, adopted by Lisa and Peter Vergakis, of Braintree, Massachusetts, makes therapy visits to a nursing home and rehabilitation hospital, and has participated in Christmas in the City, a large holiday event for homeless families in the Boston area.*



*Molly, adopted by Cindy Gingrich and Rick Baker, of Boylston, Massachusetts, participates in exam stress relief activities.*

being retired racing Greyhounds. We welcome all breeds and mixes, as long as they can pass our pet therapy test, and we would most definitely love more Greyhounds. ■

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*About the author: Christine MacDonald believes that training is the necessary foundation to a lifelong relationship with one's dog. It helps strengthen the bond between*

*families and their canine. Christine's passion is sharing the positive, therapeutic qualities a pet can have on human life. Christine, her three therapy dogs and one retired therapy cat have made over 375 pet therapy visits. In her free time, Christine enjoys working her dogs in agility and freestyle. She currently lives with an adopted mixed breed and two adopted Standard Poodles. Christine teaches in Acton and Westborough, Massachusetts.*



# Who's Lucky Now?

***The Lucky Greyhound* teaches how lucky a Greyhound can be.**

by Nancy Wright-Korhonen and Robin Waldman

Beverly Helmbold Erschell

*The Lucky Greyhound*

Cincinnati Book Publishing, 2013

36pp. \$14.95

ISBN: 978-0-9894271-6-6

## About the Book

Beverly Helmbold Erschell wrote and illustrated an inspiring and fun account of one Greyhound's journey into the post-racing world. A beautifully illustrated picture book, *The Lucky Greyhound* is the true story of Maple the Greyhound. A former racer and blood donor, Maple finds love and happiness splitting time between two families.

## Maple's Journey

Author Erschell walks us through the now-glamorous life of Maple, her adopted Greyhound. After two years of racing, Maple retired from the track to become a blood donor in an animal hospital. Her universal blood type saved many canine lives. She was so friendly and outgoing that the veterinarian decided she needed a real home.

Everyone who came in contact with Maple fell in love with her, and that's how she is lucky enough to split time between two homes. The veterinarian offered Maple to Beverly the artist, knowing that she would provide a great home. At the



## The Lucky Greyhound

Beverly Helmbold Erschell





same time Beverly fell in love with Maple, lab technician Audra also fell in love with the dog. Maple now experiences the best of two homes.

## Superstar

After being adopted by Beverly and Audra, Maple became a much sought-after

model for the Cincinnati Art Academy. The art in *The Lucky Greyhound* is in color and black- and-white, using a combination of mediums. The illustrations show what retired life is all about for Greyhounds: learning to climb stairs, chasing squirrels, taking a shower, roaching on the couch, walking in the park, and “zoomies” in the house and gallery. Those who live in the Cincinnati area will recognize Maple among familiar skylines and by the Ohio River in the book’s illustrations. She attends art galas and gallery openings, where she is always a well-mannered guest.

## What Makes This Book Special

*The Lucky Greyhound* is an excellent introduction to the life of Greyhounds. Beverly illustrates and describes their unique qualities and traits, from their tattoos and thin skin to their chattering jaws and toothy smiles. *The Lucky*

*Greyhound* is a perfect book for all ages, and the colorful illustrations will appeal to a variety of audiences. Recently, this book was read to a second-grade classroom full of 7- and 8-year-old students. They were fascinated to learn what sets Greyhounds apart from other breeds of dogs and loved the illustrations. The students had a lot of questions, and Maple was the topic of many dinner conversations that night.

To learn more about [Beverly Helmbold Erschell](#) and her work, visit her website. To purchase a copy of *The Lucky Greyhound*, visit [Cincy Books](#) or call (513) 382-4315. ■

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*About the authors: Robin Waldman has lived with three Greyhounds and now shares her home with two Galgos, Iker and Xavi. Nancy Wright-Korhonen teaches second grade and has lived with three Greyhounds. She currently shares her home with her Greyhound, Ringo.*



# You're Invited

## **Friday through Sunday, June 20–22, 2014**

2014 North American Greyhound Adoption Conference

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds, Inc.

Sheraton Inn, Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Greyhound lovers everywhere are welcome.

[www.gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org](http://www.gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org)

## **Thursday through Saturday, June 26–28, 2014**

Heart of America Greyhound Gathering

Halfway Home Greyhound Adoption

Sterl Hall, Abilene, Kansas

Tour three Greyhound farms and enjoy schooling races and a Jack-A-Lure demonstration, to see first hand how young racers are introduced to chasing a motorized lure. Get an inside look at the National Greyhound Association (NGA) offices. Learn from several guest speakers with

hands-on training sessions, and enjoy a panel discussion as four Greyhound owners reminisce about their lives in the business dating back to the 1960s. There will also be vendors, contests, games, food, raffles, door prizes, auctions, and a ceremony in memory of those waiting at the Rainbow Bridge.

[halfwayhomegreys@gmail.com](mailto:halfwayhomegreys@gmail.com)

[www.halfwayhomegreyhounds.com](http://www.halfwayhomegreyhounds.com)

## **Saturday, July 19, 2014**

Howlwaiian Luau, Greyhound Lovers Picnic

First State Greyhound Rescue

Noon – 4 p.m. (rain or shine)

Oley Fairgrounds

26 Jefferson St., Oley, Pennsylvania

Food (with donation), fun and great times!

Greyhound and people games, raffles, vendors,



*Anubis, adopted by Dawn Vojtush, of Altamonte Springs, Florida*

wading pools, and more. Come meet the fosters!

484-201-5981

[www.firstgreys.org](http://www.firstgreys.org)

[rickyrock14@icloud.com](mailto:rickyrock14@icloud.com)

## **Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 2–3, 2014**

Greyt Escape: Kennels to Kouches 2014

Greyhound Trust & Alliance

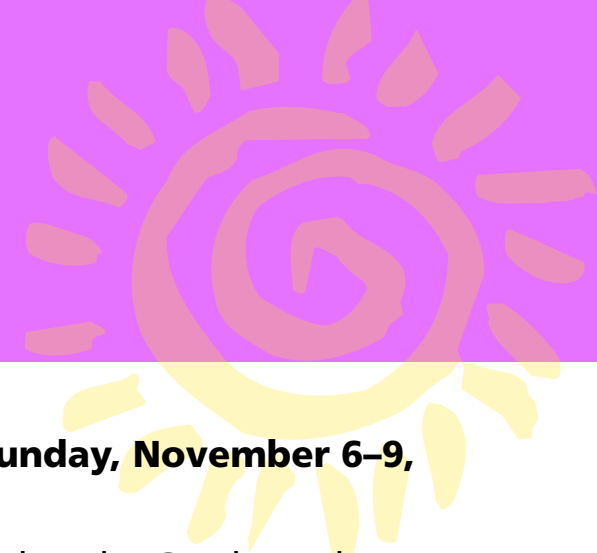
Wheeling Island Casino & Racetrack, Wheeling Island, West Virginia

Two-day event featuring the Greyhound Wellness Conference with Dr. Guillermo Couto.

[www.greyhoundtrustalliance.webs.com](http://www.greyhoundtrustalliance.webs.com)



# You're Invited



## **Saturday, September 13, 2014**

Greyfest

Greyhounds Unlimited

Noon – 4 p.m.

Addison Circle Park

4970 Addison Circle Drive, Addison, Texas

Bring your Greyhound and hang out with other Greyhound lovers at Greyhound Unlimited's annual gathering and fundraiser. Shop for fun and unique Greyhound items at a variety of vendors or in the silent and live auctions.

[www.greyhoundsunlimited.org](http://www.greyhoundsunlimited.org)

[Greyhounds Unlimited on Facebook](#)

## **Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014 (rain date: Sept. 28)**

PetsAffair

Retired Greyhounds as Pets (REGAP) of Connecticut, Inc.

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

105 Fairwood Road, Bethany, Connecticut

REGAP of Connecticut, Inc., will conduct its seventh annual PetsAffair. All money raised by this event directly supports the care of the dogs — food, veterinary costs, and kennel maintenance. This year's event will include a silent auction (10 a.m.–3 p.m.), tag sale, pet-a-cures, great basket giveaways, great luck contests, pet photos, Greyhound meet and greets, picnic and cookout, bake sale – canine and human – and much more.

[www.regapct.com](http://www.regapct.com)

[info@regapct.com](mailto:info@regapct.com)

## **Thursday through Sunday, November 6–9, 2014**

Second Annual Remember the Greyhounds Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption, Inc.

LaQuinta Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas

A celebration of Greyhounds, their sighthound friends, and their humans benefitting the Greyhound Angel Network. Activities will include informational seminars by Dr. Davey Harkins from Kansas, Dr. Robin Robinett, who will give a demonstration this year in addition to a talk, Sandra Baas from BaasGalgos and animal communicator Val Hart, hound contests, strolls on Riverwalk, professional portraits by Crackerdog, aka Steve Uyehara, fun, laughs, raffles, silent and live auctions.

[Remember The Greyhound on Facebook](#)

[www.heartoftexasgreyhounds.org](http://www.heartoftexasgreyhounds.org)

[lexsam@ptd.net](mailto:lexsam@ptd.net) or

[burpdog@msn.com](mailto:burpdog@msn.com)





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