

GREYHOUND GOSSIP

The Newsletter of PUPS WITHOUT PARTNERS



UPDATE OF PUPS WITHOUT PARTNERS GREYHOUND ADOPTION PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GREETING TO ALL OUR GREYHOUND FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

Since January 2007, PWP has been very busy rehoming greyhounds. To date we placed our 125th greyhound. As many of you are aware, we work very closely with two other greyhound adoption programs located in upstate NY and Long Island, NY. The three groups are quite a force for greyhounds and we have worked very hard to keep the lines of communications open so no greyhound falls between the cracks. In 2007 our groups were very instrumental in assisting many retired hounds from Melbourne, FL as well as Hinsdale & Belmont, NH.

To say the least I am very proud of what our teamwork has accomplished. This year we had a fun filled afternoon in Bethel, CT with Greyhound Rescue & Rehab at their annual picnic. Many of the greyhounds that have been placed into retirement through that organization were there basking in the sunshine and enjoying grey company. I highly recommend when invites go out in 2009 that you make a point of attending this event as it is so much fun. The event also helps raise funds for the team of GRR and heaven knows they need it.

We also decided that for 2008 we would be getting dogs from Ebro, FL for Grateful Greyhounds Fall Ball. At the event in 2007 the hauler was five hours late getting dogs to the event.

So the plan was GG, GRR and PWP would pool our resources and take as many dogs as possible. Then it was decided that Dave Shomper would drive them up to NYC for the event. As luck would have it he had no copilot so I was elected to fly to Florida and drive back with the dogs.

For those of you who don't know the players in this game of greyhounds, let me introduce them to you...

Kennel owner: Crystal Zwart

Trainer: David Shomper

President PWP: Penny Zwart

President Grateful Greyhounds: Lisa Sallie

President Greyhound Rescue & Rehab: Christine Johnson

All of the above worked countless hours and spent many nail-biting moments to make this haul happen. Lisa already had some dogs ready to go as did Christine and PWP. But eighteen was the chosen number of dogs to bring to the event. My flight was paid for and off I went. Also bringing eight dogs to the event was kennel owner, Phillip Stapleton.

To make a long story short, everyone made it to a most enjoyable event safe and sound with a total of thirty-two available greyhounds on hand, I planned to take six back to CT. Well, drum roll, please. I wound up returning with no dogs. They were all adopted the night of the event. Even on non-stop, no sleep mode it was a most enjoyable event as I

stayed awake long enough to drive back to CT. Talk about red eye! I cannot thank these two groups properly as there simply aren't words to express my gratitude.

PWP doesn't have nearly the resources or volunteers that these two remarkable groups have and we would like very much to beef up our volunteer base in order to help more greyhounds. We cannot do it without help from you.

Some of the events we held this year were: the Durham Fair, Shelton Day, Devon Day and the Audubon Festival in New Haven. Events we have; help we need! Can you spare some time?

Volunteers, please email me. I will fill you in how you can help. I can be reached at Crys1982@aol.com.

All ages welcome.

THE STATE OF GREYHOUND AFFAIRS IN MA

This year's elections in MA brought pain and sorrow for the greyhound racing industry and I'm going to expound on this subject, then leave it alone as everyone knows I support greyhound racing that benefits the dogs. I bear no grudges against the good people involved; the bad ones know not to cross me.

MA has two tracks, Wonderland Greyhound Park outside of Boston

and Raynham/Taunton closer to the RI line. Both of these tracks have been front-runners in quality racing greyhounds and have always supported adoption. None of the dogs that ran at either track was ever in danger of euthanasia unless a dog received an irreparable injury. Linda Jensen has been placing greyhounds from these tracks for years now and has done a wonderful job.

Now with the ruling that greyhound racing must cease in MA, we in adoption find ourselves bearing the burden. The MA dogs will displace hundreds of dogs racing at lesser tracks and most of these dogs from the lower grade tracks will be in need of adoption. They will not be used for breeding, leaving adoption groups faced with literally hundreds of healthy greyhounds in need of homes.

In my opinion this was the worst thing that could have happened. OK, no more racing in MA. But then what? I have had literally hundreds of conversations with kennel owners, dog owners and adoption folks. Everyone is quite upset.

Let me give you the racetrack scenario in the northeast. I'm not going to try to explain how the point and money systems work. It's too time consuming and hard for the lay person to understand.

Top paying tracks attract only top performing greyhounds. There are too many to include here but you can visit www.ngagreyhounds.com for a list of all tracks. Greyhounds must be competitive enough to remain at these upper echelon tracks. If they are not, they go to Wonderland or Raynham/Taunton, a step down. Many great greyhounds have raced at these two tracks. When the dogs are no longer running well there, they go to Seabrook in NH or to tracks in the south. They may also go to Belmont and Hinsdale in NH. Remember we are only talking about NE tracks. So picture it like this...out with the old stock and in with the new. It's the trickle-down effect. Where does the old stock go?

With all this in mind I hope now you are ready to foster a displaced, ready for a home hound because we are going to have plenty. We're going to need to move fast when the time comes and in the most safe and sensible way for the greyhounds who will be in need. And with that said I'll leave the topic alone and move on to the next subject.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Included with this update is a raffle ticket sale form and a holiday gift certificate program. With all the greyhounds moving in these tough economic times we still need your help. We have received some grey items to be raffled off and are awaiting gift certificate requests. It's the only way we can continue to help these dogs. The adoption fee should be raised but I can't bring myself to do it. We are going in the red about \$60.00 per dog but I cannot put a price on a good adoption. Our group works very hard to match the dog with the family and we want all families to be able to adopt. We don't want to price greyhounds out of the reach of anyone who can provide them with a loving, caring home. Heck, if I were ready to adopt could I afford the fee? So we turn to our friends and ask for your help.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN

Do you want to jump in with both feet and take on a role? These are appointed position and are voted on by the Board of Directors.

- Two (2) community relations people are needed. This job involves setting dates for meet and greets, fairs – any type of event where lots of people will be. I would like to have one (1) person in the southern part of CT (Westport to Milford) and one (1) person in the northern part (New Haven to New London). This is a huge undertaking as it requires a lot of Internet and phone work. The rewards, however, are every bit as large.

- Fundraising Committee. This should be a group of five(5) to nine (9) people as it is a huge undertaking and needs a great deal of attention. It must be carefully planned so the program can achieve the maximum benefit from fundraisers. We would like to do more dinners, outings and fun stuff.

- I need one (1) person who can work with our computer person to take over the management of our database. This person obviously should be computer literate (I'm not) and understand that records must be updated often. This person would also be our "go-to" person for lost dogs (ID#) and should have some idea of how adoptions work. Our database has thousands of greyhounds in it. It dates back to 1995. I just can-

not keep up with the input and we are about 50 greyhounds in arrears, a topic I'll get to shortly.

- In closing this update, which should have been a newsletter, it also opens up a spot for someone (even a student can do it). We need a person who can publish a newsletter to a disk 4 times a year. This person would also need to update our webmaster and manage the Petfinders site. You would not believe how much exposure the Internet brings. But here again I cannot keep up with it. Our webmaster, Mike Volkmar, and his wife, Beth, are doing a greyt job. But without information Mike and Beth cannot update the site.

- In the near future we must obtain the services of a marketing person who is willing to donate his or her services. This is the person we need to steer the ship and not into an iceberg as I've been doing.

Help only comes from willing people so PLEASE, please fill out the volunteer form. I promise you won't be sorry.

I know it appears that I'm trying to push off a lot of the daily running of this program onto others. As President it's my job to make sure everything is moving forward in the best interest of the greyhounds. It's my job to work with my subcommittees to make certain their ideas, plans and efforts are worthwhile and to help in any way I can. It's my job to break ties on any executive decision should a tie take place.

Our VP, Crystal Zwart has quite a different role than most VPs. Hers is to safeguard any dog that she comes in contact with and to make sure that dog gets safely into adoption either through our program or any other creditable program. She spends her days in the heart of greyhound racing territory in Ebro, FL adding dogs to our list of hounds waiting for homes. It's also her role to vote on any executive decisions that need to be made.

That brings me to our newly appointed Treasurer, Jim Berger, who comes to us with many years of experience in greyhound adoption and who is as well a CPA, someone this program needs desperately. I have always said I'm not good with money. When it comes to these dogs I have no sense of costs. Jim has thankfully taken over the reins of the checking account which is in the red because of me. We have had many discussions about how to get this program financially stable enough so that a kennel can be in our future. This would give me back my living room and dining room.

So there you have our Board. Jim also has a vote on any decisions made. Something tells me his vote will matter most because he controls the funds. Crystal and I cannot bear to hear about a hurt dog that cannot get treatment because of cost. With Jim at the helm I think we can help more broken dogs. And that's the name of the game – broken, retired, displaced greyhounds. Bring them on!

WE NEED A HOME! PLEASE ADOPT US!

See more dogs available at:
www.pupswithoutpartners.org



Midnight Penske

"Johnny" (3 yo) is a retired stakes dog who has now recovered from a leg fracture. He's considered not cat safe but is SO good with people.

Harvest Wine

"Alex" (6 yo) is a high energy boy who enjoys roughhousing. He'd make a good agility or coursing dog but isn't cat safe.



Charming Art

"Art" (4 yo) is a handsome brindle male, friendly, outgoing The Pele of Penny's Pen, Art kicks around an old basketball for fun.

Airtrain Missle

"Sam" (3 yo) is a light brindle male who will do well on his own or other greyhounds, but not cats.



**We have sixteen more dogs waiting
in Florida ready to find a home now!**

PWP NEEDS A HOME, TOO

We have an investor who has given us the opportunity to purchase our own kennel. We have several properties in our sight, but we will need to raise additional funds (\$100G) to fully finance the deal. Imagine how many dogs we could save if we had our own facility!



Pups Without Partners Winter Raffle



Sandicast
Greyhound



Help us get through a very busy winter.

Please find enclosed a book of 10 tickets that you may buy or sell. Tickets are \$2 each (\$20 for the book). Send your check and ticket stubs back to us at:

Pups Without Partners
39 Wharton Street
West Haven, CT 06516



Inch-sized 8 Ball snuggles along the shimmery gold & black division line of Paua Shell on this 2.5" pendant. With a 16" braided black leather cord

~ Prizes ~ Grand Prize

Sandicast Greyhound - value: \$400.00

1st Prize

Mini Grandfather Clock - value: \$200.00

2nd Prize

Digital Camera - value: \$150.00

3rd Prize

Digital Camera - value: \$125.00

4th Prize

Handmade Necklace - value: \$125.00

5th Prize

\$100.00 Stop & Shop Gift Card

6th Prize

Bottle of Wine - value: \$75.00

7th Prize

Mary Kay Hand Care Set - value: \$50.00

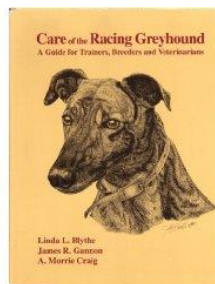
8th Prize

"Care of the Racing Greyhound"
Autographed - value: \$50.00

If you'd rather not send a check you may pay us online. Just go to our Website www.pupswithoutpartners.org/donate.htm and select the PayPal donation option. You will still need to send the ticket stubs back to be eligible for the drawing.

**Ticket stubs must be returned by
January 16th 2009.**

Drawing will take place on January 17th.



Prizes made available through generous donations from the following people: Jim Berger, Nancy H, Donna & Breet Weeks, Grateful Greyhounds, Andy & Maryellen Douglas, Karen Baker and the Elicker Family.

