

Greyhounds Pets of America-Northern California (GPA-NC) / Greyhound Adoption California (GACA) Newsletter, Winter 2012

New Adoptions

Several of our greyhounds are starting the New Year with new homes.

After fostering for four months, Carol and Greg O'Neal made it official and gave *Pappy* a forever home. He is happy as a clam and is enjoying spending time with his siblings *Rogue* and *Kiowa*.

Mocha was adopted by Gail and Carmen Woodward-Lopez.

Long-time greyhound owners Bruce and Dana Chandler welcomed *Sadie* into their home.

Thursday found a forever home with Drew and Linda Savage.

After fostering several greyhounds over the course of a year, Inge Barros finally found that *Daisy* was the perfect match.

Mannie and John Huculak and their *Becky* needed more excitement in the house. Playful *Turbo* charged right into the house and into their hearts. Who would have thought that the IRS and "TurboTax" would provide the inspiration for their energetic youngster's perfect name?

We wish our new adoptees much love, lots of long walks, and a cushy bed for long, winter naps! Thanks to all for giving these retired racers a good home!



Happy Pappy. Picture courtesy of Greg O'Neal.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to our South Bay volunteers for gift wrapping to raise money for the organization at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 3600 Stevens Creek Blvd., San Jose, CA, during the holiday season. Our dedicated volunteers spent 10 afternoons/evenings fundraising and telling people about what wonderful pets retired racers make.

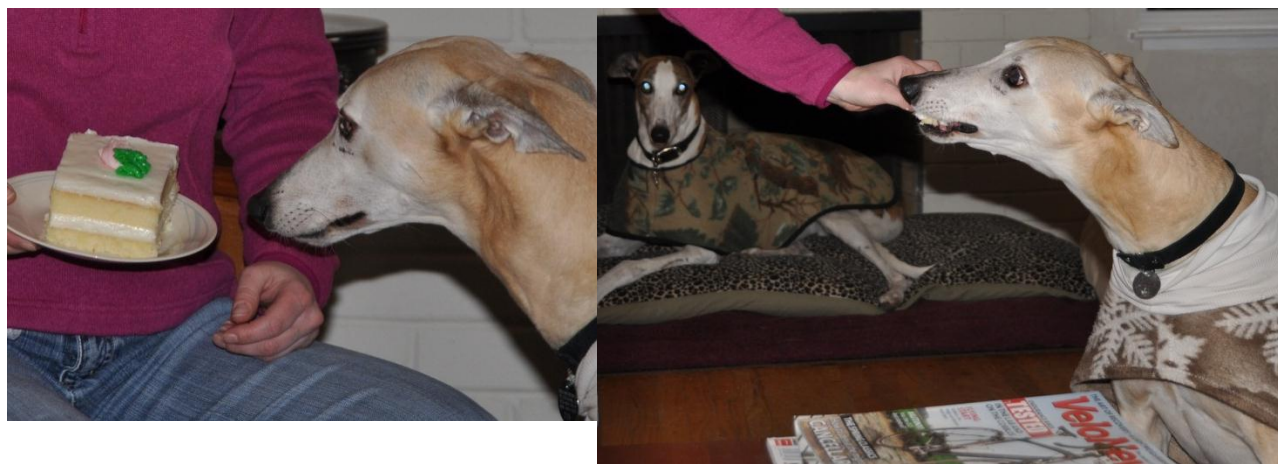
The volunteers included:

- Josephine Elizaga, with *Domino*
- Bob & Marianne Gardner, with *Porsha*
- Shelley Heim, with *Dee*
- Rachel Hobbs, with son Alexander and *Radar*
- Tanya Killin, with *Gracie*
- Sherrlyn Lancaster, with son Michael and greyhound *Holly* & *Gromit*
- Jen Morales, adopter of *Gus*
- Barbara Powell, with daughter Teresa and *Roxy*
- Peggy Richardson, with *Phoenix* and *Junie*
- Kate Sitter, with *Derby*
- Dave Smith, with *Lisette*

Thanks for always putting your best paws forward! And, special thanks to Sherrlyn and Jen for organizing the event.

Available Greyhound

Stella is a beautiful, energetic, loving, fawn female. She's 10 years young and needs adopters who are willing to love an older girl with kidney disease. Stella's hobbies are chasing squirrels and bossing around her foster siblings. Please let us know if you are interested in providing a foster or permanent home for her.



Happy Birthday Stella, who turned 10 on January 24.

A Trip to the Farms

Nicola Mohr, long-time greyhound owner and practicing veterinarian (Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital, Santa Cruz, CA) and her husband Michael made the trip to Oklahoma to adopt their Shadow — a sweet, senior, brood mom. Nicola reports that Shadow has been the easiest dog ever and that she would take another senior mom (or dad) any day, next time they are ready to adopt. She would like to encourage people to consider these wonderful, level-headed, older hounds for pets. Here is her story about the visit to the greyhound farms.

In 2009, we had the opportunity to tour several Greyhound farms that breed, raise, and train Greyhounds in Oklahoma. We met Teddy Palmer of Halfway Home Greyhound Adoption who showed us around and was a wealth of information. We had completely unhindered access to these farms and were invited to peek into any corner, meet the dogs and workers, take as many photos as we liked, and ask any questions. What we saw was very informative and interesting.

Puppies are whelped in special facilities, air conditioned and equipped to take care of several mothers and their newborns. There were the usual whelping boxes, with lots of room for the mother to lie down and nurse the neonates, as well as space away from the litter to relieve herself or to eat. The moms were happy to see us, even with puppies attached and nursing. None showed protective aggression or reluctance to have us join her in her space – quite amazing for any dog! We were allowed to handle the tiny puppies and admire them – it is not often to see a Greyhound this little and immature – they look like any other pup at 2 weeks of age. The long, sleek limbs are far away yet!





After staying with their moms until weaning, the litters are moved to a large outdoor pen with shelter and allowed to play, dig, and roll in the red Oklahoma dirt all day long, for several weeks. Meals consist of a huge supply of softened food, and everyone comes running and jumping at the sight of that wonderful person carrying the feeding bucket several times a day. Otherwise, there are no rules. Total excitement rules when either a dog is walked by the pen or a person appears at the perimeter – and each is greeted with enthusiasm and tumbling over each other trying to reach that visitor/ passerby.



Next, the youngsters are moved in pairs or small groups into very long outdoor runs. These are fenced in and many run parallel to each other – so as to allow these teenagers to see each other and stay socially connected, and to allow them to chase each other along the fence for several hundred feet – no encouragement needed, as we watched them do so several times. Sprint with the neighbor, retreat to the shade, drink some water, relax – and, in 15 minutes, do it all over again. We could see the future chase instinct emerging. These dogs obviously love to run! It makes them develop a very fit body, and it is apparent that there is a lot of energy to be burnt.



Just before moving to the race tracks, the dogs are housed in individual kennels, either indoors or outside. They are now officially trained to run in an oval, after a lure. In between, they rest in their personal kennel but are always taken outside as a group; we saw 30 or more at a time hanging out during these turnouts. They wear muzzles during these times to prevent jostling or other disagreements ending in injuries between dogs. We always saw them very relaxed when outside, and seemingly happy to socialize, but as every Greyhound owner knows, it doesn't take much to injure their thin skin. The group mills about for half an hour while the kennels are cleaned and resupplied with shredded paper, and when the word comes, everyone charges inside ready to check on their home – few needed assistance finding their places. The muzzles come off, and everyone settles down, ready for a nap. There were usually only 1 or 2 dogs barking; the workers seemed to know those well, and mostly were able to quiet those with a whistle. We were allowed to take several hounds out of their kennels, and again were amazed at the friendly excitement they showed us; no one shied away from our hands, all were eager to be petted and rubbed. Most are ready to move to the tracks by 18 months of age – and the ones we saw were in superb condition. They virtually brim with energy and strength, charged for running. It made us middle-aged, well-fed humans feel quite out of shape!





The last group we saw was older dogs - mostly breeding males and females. Both have their individual kennels in separate locations. Perhaps the most special to see were some of the former dogs of fame; when older and greyed, they seemed so sweet and grateful for attention. Some live out their retirement on the farms and remain special to their humans. Some will eventually be offered for outside adoption – although not an easy thing, as most adopters are drawn to the young and pretty ones.



During our visits to these farms, we met many wonderful Greyhounds and welcoming people. They took hours out of their day to show us around and seemed delighted to share their operations and dogs with us. What struck us the most was the excitement by the Greyhounds of all ages to meet us and be petted. All seemed ready to do whatever we might want to do with them. Although they don't sleep on people's beds (yet), these Greyhounds are obviously used to humans and are treated well enough to think of people as fun and exciting. No wonder they are willing and able to make the adjustment to our home environments and to trust us so completely. And to become our Best Friends!

—Contributed by Nicola Mohr

Good Reads

If Nicola's article piqued your curiosity, you may want to pick up [Born to Run – The Racing Greyhound from Competitor to Companion](#) by Ryan H. Reed (Thoroughbred Times Company, Inc. 2010). This book was written to provide information on racetracks, breeding farms, and adoption organizations across the country and to tell the history of racing in the United States. As well as being an interesting read, this book contains many beautiful pictures of greyhounds in various stages of their lives. It will definitely give you a new appreciation of your best friend.

Many of you are familiar with the quarterly publication "Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine". The most-recently released Winter 2011 issue highlights greyhound-assisted therapy, including an article written by GACA adopter Maud Carol Markson (aka Maud Goldfield). Maud writes about the therapy work that she and *Liberty* perform through Furry Friends Pet Assisted Therapy Services (San Jose, CA). Kudos to Maud and *Liberty* for their dedicated work and for inspiring others to consider volunteer work with their greyhounds. Information about the magazine can be found at <http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine/>.



Liberty isn't the only one of our greyhounds who volunteers with Furry Friends. Here *Holly*, along with her adopter Sherrlyn Lancaster (not pictured), is hard at work at Willow Glen Library helping a young lady practice reading. Sherrlyn would to encourage more greyhounds and their owners to get involved with such volunteer activities. Are you interested? See <http://www.furryfriends.org/> for more details.

GACA Events

Please check our website (www.greyhoundadoptioncalifornia.com/events) for upcoming and recurring events, including:

- 1st Saturday of the month show & tell at a San Jose Petco at Blossom Hill
- 2nd Saturday of the month show & tell at a San Jose Petco at Meridian and Branham
- 3rd Sunday of the month greyhound walk in Pleasanton Sports Park

Do you know of any events that would be good show & tell opportunities? Are you interested in hosting a show & tell at your local pet store? If so, please let us know and we would be happy to help you get started.

Greyhound Pets of America and Other News

Halfway Home Greyhound Adoption Abilene Gathering will be held June 7–10 in Abilene, KS. It will be an opportunity to visit the Greyhound Hall of Fame and some greyhound farms. For more details, visit <http://www.halfwayhomegreyhounds.com/gathering.html>.

The Atlanta Chapter of GPA will be hosting the Greyhound Adoption Conference in Atlanta, GA, June 15–17, 2012.

For greyhound news at the National level, see <http://www.greyhoundpets.org/>.

Frequent Buyer Programs

For those of you who buy Canidae brand dog foods, did you know the company has a frequent buyer program? Buy 12 bags of food, save 12 of the SKU codes, and you can redeem them for a free bag of food. For details and a program envelop, inquire at your local pet store. Canidae frequently donates food to our greyhound group and it's nice to know they also support their customers.

If you know of other frequent buyer programs that you'd like to share, please send us an e-mail.

Greyhound Trivia

Have you ever wondered about the large numbers of greyhound farms in Oklahoma and Kansas? Greyhounds were originally brought into the Midwest during the mid-nineteenth century to control the spread of crop-destroying jack rabbits. Soon after their arrival, informal coursing events were held. By 1886, these events were formalized with the creation of the National Coursing Association, which, in 1973, became the National Greyhound Association (NGA). The NGA is a non-profit association recognized by the Greyhound racing industry as the sole registry for racing Greyhounds in North America.

Get Involved!

We are always looking for volunteers. Please contact us at 2greys@mindspring.com if you would like to help us in our mission to find loving homes for greyhounds. We are always looking for greyhound foster parents, newsletter writers, people who are willing to transport dogs, etc. Whatever your talent or passion, we welcome your help.

Newsletter Contributors

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*Greyhounds just aren't for buses -- logo on an Italian motorcycle made by Parilla.
On display at the [Barber Motorsports Museum](#).*