

GREYHOUND Friends for Life Newsline

Spring 2008

Letter from Barbara...

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Keep Your Info Current

If you have moved, changed your home or cell phone numbers, or changed your e-mail address, please contact Michele Czaja with updates:

mbczaja@comcast.net

or
831-659-9225

Not only will you continue to get the newsletter, but accurate contact information helps us reunite lost greyhounds to their families.

We are starting the New Year on a troubling note. Since January 1, we know of three greyhounds that have gotten loose. If you are on Shana Laursen's email list, you are aware of two of these dogs. One is Bella, who has been missing in Sacramento since January 2 and is still missing as I write this. Volunteers have spent thousands of hours searching for her and will continue searching. A second greyhound, Cali, was loose for a week in an area with mountain lions and traffic – a really bad combination. Luckily for her, all of the flyers and postings paid off and she was found alive and relatively unscathed. A third greyhound got through an open gate, was hit by a car, and had two broken legs and a collapsed lung. She has a long recovery in front of her but, fortunately, she's still alive.

This is a good time to re-assess greyhound safety aspects in your home and yard. It's important to think about the possible scenarios in which your greyhound could escape, and remedy them. Do your doors and gates have spring closures on them? Do you have a screen door for an extra safety measure? Can you put a baby gate across the entrance to a front porch? A double barrier should be in place whenever possible (2 doors, gate plus door, etc). Most of us, at one time or another, have had a dog get loose and it's a horrible feeling. Most of us are lucky that there was nothing worth chasing at the time and the dog didn't take off straight into traffic. See the article on Page 5 for some additional tips.

I can't stress enough how important it is to notify GFFL immediately if your greyhound gets loose. It's a rare occurrence when an owner finds a lost greyhound single-handedly. What gets them back is a huge volunteer effort, with lots and lots of posters, flyers, knocking on doors, and talking to people at community-gathering places like grocery stores. We will soon have a lost greyhound page on the GFFL website, www.greyhoundfriendsforlife.org, which will discuss many of the techniques that have proved useful in finding these lost dogs.

All adopters sign a contract with GFFL, committing that we will NEVER let our greyhounds off leash unless it is in a safe and secure fenced-in area. Every adoption group has this same rule. Track greyhounds go everywhere on leash so our greyhound pets are perfectly happy to walk with their adopters on leash. Because of the heartache, sleepless nights, and the volunteer time that it takes to look for these lost dogs, GFFL wants to reinforce that it is imperative that we all follow this simple leash requirement.

Reflections on the First Year of the “New” GFFL

And what a year it was—a mixture of lots of good news and, as always, some sad news. Several of our older greyhounds crossed the Rainbow Bridge this year, always the sad part of sharing our lives with these wonderful animals. Last year also saw an unexpectedly large number of major surgeries in addition to the normal veterinary costs, including 3 hock repairs and a hip surgery. But there was lots and lots of good news! More than 140 greyhounds, including some returns from our own and other, out-of-state groups, were adopted in 2007 and are happily living in their forever homes. In addition, all of the unexpected surgeries resulted in a better quality of life for the dogs—thanks to the surgeons and the folks who nursed these greyhounds during their long recoveries!



One of the most exciting events of 2007 was the arrival of Emma and her 10 puppies at the Auburn facility. As most of you know, we rarely get greyhound puppies, especially not ones as young as these guys, who were about 10 weeks old when they arrived. Emma, who is not tattooed, and her brood were advertised on Craig’s list, having been rescued by a very nice woman in Atascadero. She was more than willing to give them up to a greyhound group to make sure that they were spayed or neutered and otherwise healthy before being adopted. Thanks to Cheryl Reynolds, Michele Czaja, Tehila Eisenstat, and Marni Meister for participating in the transport of these dogs from Atascadero to the Auburn facility! Emma and all of the puppies have found their forever homes.



In 2007, we also took in a relatively large number of dogs from shelters. Most of these dogs were not tattooed, so they are probably from breeders who get the dogs from the track and breed them for coyote or rabbit hunting, lure coursing, or both. The 2007 shelter greyhounds included Tips, Loki, Lucy, Claire, Will, Grace, and Valentino (now William). Even though the untattooed dogs don’t have the prior discipline of the track, they have the same sweet dispositions and adapt equally well to being a pampered pet!

Thanks to the generosity of Kate Gebhart and Mim Drake of Bark Stix, Inc., GFFL now provides a fabulous adoption goodie bag to our adopters. The bag contains a dog toy and Bark Stix dog treats. Our adopters are delighted with this unexpected bonus – a new greyhound, a toy, and treats! Bark Stix also donates or provides treats at cost for many of GFFL’s events, including the reunion and the Solano Stroll. Thank you, Kate and Mim!



Fortunately, 2007 was a wonderful year for fundraising. The golf tournament, organized by Tammy and Brian Harzak, and the On-Leash Fashion Show, organized by Shana Laursen, brought in about \$20,000! These two events were successful because of the hard work of the organizers as well as the volunteers who helped with each event and the generous individuals and businesses who donated wonderful items for the drawings and silent auctions. Thanks to the volunteers who helped out with Greyhound Planet Week at various PetCo stores, we received a check for a little more than \$2000 from the PetCo Foundation. We were also fortunate to receive a \$5000 grant from Maddie's Fund, an animal welfare foundation, and many, many generous donations from our adopters and other supporters. To put this into perspective, we spent over \$90,000 on veterinary bills, medications, and food for the foster dogs in 2007!!

For you eBayers, GFFL is now registered with MissionFish, the exclusive charity solution provider for eBay Giving Works that provides the software and organizational support for eBay users to sell an item and donate some of the proceeds to a favorite nonprofit. We have also authorized Art 4 Critters (A4C), a group of artists from around the world with a desire to help animals in need, to sell items on eBay on our behalf. These artists have committed to donating a portion of their art sales to help animal charities. We have also enrolled in the iGive program, another way to make your purchases help GFFL. Many of your favorite stores donate a percent of the sales price to a specified charity if the store is accessed through the iGive site. Check out iGive and A4C on the "How to Help" page of our website.

Your continued donations are so very important to helping us rescue and meet the medical needs of these wonderful dogs. Because of your support, we are able to take in many dogs who come to us directly from the track and who require spay/neuter, all vaccines, dentals, antibiotics, etc, even though these costs far exceed the adoption fee. We are also able to provide tick titer and valley fever results for all of our dogs, and treat those who require it, something that most of the other groups cannot afford to do. Many of the dogs from Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, and other states, would not be alive today without your generous contributions of time and money.

We have also maintained a great presence in the Bay Area and in the Sacramento/Auburn areas, thanks to the volunteers who give up a few hours each month to host Meet and Greets and other outreach events. Even though these events don't necessarily generate immediate applications, we frequently get applications from people who say that they met us and our dogs somewhere a couple of years ago and are now ready to adopt a greyhound. Equally important is the continuing education about the greyhound racing industry. At just about every Meet & Greet, we talk to at least one person who had no idea of the fate that awaits many greyhounds if they no longer make money and are not picked up by a rescue group. **So keep up the good work!**



Reminder – We Need Your Photos for the 2009 GFFL Calendar

We plan to have our own calendar again in 2009, so we encourage you submit photos of your greyhounds! Last year, we received several photos that we could not identify, so we have included specific instructions for the photos submitted for the 2009 calendar.

The deadline is May 1, 2008!

Photo Submittal Requirements:

- Photos must be in focus, not over- or under-exposed, and subjects should not have red eyes.
- You **MUST** place an adhesive label on the back of every single photo and **PRINT** the following info: your name, email or mailing address, the names of all Greyhounds in the photo, birthdates of the greyhounds, city/state where each greyhound lives, and the name(s) of adopter(s) if not you. **DO NOT WRITE ON THE BACK OF A PHOTO!**
- You **MUST** get written permission to submit a photo from all people who are in the photo, and, if you did not take the photo yourself, you **MUST** get the photographer's written permission to submit the photo.

Digital Photo Submittal Requirements:

All of the above photo submittal requirements apply to digital photos, as well as the following:

- All digital photos must be taken at the highest resolution possible on your digital camera. These high resolution images produce huge files. You can expect a high resolution image to be approximately 1 MB or larger.
- Please print each digital image on quality glossy photographic paper and label it as described above.
- Send a CD which contains each digital image you have printed. Place a label on the CD cover and **PRINT**: the name(s) of the digital image file or files, your name, email or mailing address, and the number of files (with associated prints) on the CD. If you can't transfer the file to a CD, please email the photos to Barbara (bajudson@gmail.com). Include your name, name of the greyhounds, etc and put the prints in snail mail.

Remember, if you did not take the photo yourself, you **MUST** get the written permission of the photographer for the photo to be considered.

Note: Photographs cannot be returned.

SUBMIT TO: Barbara Judson, 364 Coventry Road, Kensington, CA 94707 or bajudson@gmail.com.

Keep your Greyhound Lean

When your greyhound arrived at your home, he or she was probably underweight and in need of nourishment and love. After a few weeks to a month of good nutrition, your greyhound probably reached its ideal weight. Did it stop there? Or is your greyhound a little "tubby"?

Our lean greyhounds look "underweight" to most dog owners and veterinarians. Their naturally slender physique meets the severely underweight standards posted on veterinarian weight charts. The fact is that the greyhound anatomy is not designed to carry excess weight. As our greyhounds age, excess weight can result in osteoarthritis and other health issues. The ideal weight for an adult male greyhound whose height is 26 to 28 inches at the shoulder is between 65 to 75 pounds. Females that are between 24 and 26 inches at the shoulder should weigh between 55 and 65 pounds. Extremely large males may weigh little more and very petite females may weigh less. Regardless of age or height, you should be able to clearly see the last three ribs on a greyhound at a healthy weight.

Hounds have a reputation for being healthy eaters and our greyhounds are no exception. Don't give into those big brown eyes and hand over another scoopful of kibble. Keep your greyhound healthy, keep your greyhound lean!

How not to Become a Member of the Runaway's Club

By Marcia Herman, Editor Emeritus of Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

We have visions of our Greyhounds following us around while we move from place to place, while working in our gardens, walking on the beach, or hiking in the woods. These are lovely fantasies, but they should never become realities unless our loyal, royal companions are in a fenced area or attached to leashes. Even highly-trained working law enforcement dogs have been known to bolt and be killed while on duty. Often, instinct is more powerful than training.

The vision of a Greyhound loose on the beach reminds me of a time when cries of "Suzi's loose! Suzi's loose!" echoed across the beachfront in Dewey Beach, Delaware. Hundreds of Greyhound-owning people who were attending the annual "Greyhounds Reach the Beach" event scampered around looking for her, hoping to catch her. As everyone knows, a loose Greyhound is a Greyhound who likely has a date with injury or death sooner rather than later. In this case, everyone knew Suzi Waddell wasn't in any danger. Suzi was seventeen at the time and was simply tottering around the beach, sniffing the seaweed with her owner at her heels. We were just having fun with Suzi.

On the other hand, here are a few examples of true, not-so-amusing scenarios that occur repeatedly; a couple of these events have happened to our own dogs over the years. Sometimes these loose dogs return home; sometimes they don't – not alive anyway. Even worse, some are never seen again.

"Our foster dog escaped while someone was looking at him and considering adopting him."

"My Greyhound is afraid of thunder. He panicked, jumped through a window and climbed the fence to get away from the storm."

"Our 9 year-old Greyhound got out while chasing a cat (or squirrel, or rabbit, or bird, or you-name-it)."

"Our 4-year-old (or visitor) opened the front door and our Greyhound ran out onto the road."

"Our two Greyhounds were in the back yard doing their business. When I went to bring them inside a few minutes later, they were both gone. The fence gate was open."

"Our mailman rang the doorbell. When I cracked open the door to take the mail, our Greyhound pushed the door open and ran away. I didn't realize that a Greyhound could get through a slightly-opened door that easily!"

"We were walking our dogs when a loose dog charged us. One of our hounds backed right out of his martingale collar – the "safe" kind – and ran away. We found him waiting for us at home a half-mile away. He knew the route home because we walk it every day. His paws were bloody from running on pavement, but he was OK otherwise. Phew!"

"We've always let her out to do her business; we live in the country, after all. She never left the yard before. This time, she ran into the neighbor's driveway and was killed by a delivery truck."

The list of escape scenarios is endless but not to worry. Recognizing that "stuff happens" to even the most careful Greyhound owner, taking a few simple precautions will reduce the possibility of your Greyhound escaping to almost zero. The most common escape route is a door, gate, or window that's slightly opened. Most escapes are made by newly-retired foster or recently-adopted Greyhounds. All these new retirees know is that an open door, window or gate is much the same as the starting gate at the track; they may think that opening means RUN! Fresh off-the-track Greyhounds know nothing about cars, highways, traffic, or even how to get back home if they are lucky enough to be unharmed. To them, "home" is the track kennel. Disoriented Greyhounds whose adoptive owners may not even know their kennel names run full speed to nowhere.

Sometimes Greyhounds who've been in homes for years will decide to run out the door, too. Although these Greyhounds will also be in danger from traffic, they will often know the way home if they've been walked or driven around the neighborhood.

Here are some suggestions for escape-proofing your Greyhound so he or she doesn't become a member of the "Runaway's Club."

How not to Become a Member of the Runaway's Club (continued)

Escape-proofing While Outside

As soon as you adopt your hound, have it micro chipped. Tag collars (buckle or breakaway or a loose slip over-the-head type) while in the house or when on the road are added security. Reserve properly-fitted martingale collars for leash use. The extra loop that makes them wonderful for leash-walking is what can make them deadly in the house, crate, or yard. Dogs have been hung by the extra loop when wearing them while no one is supervising them.

Always go into the yard with your new newly-retired Greyhound, even if it's fenced. Every dog is different; you have to watch and learn from each one by observing behaviors. Once you learn what each dog is capable of/interested in doing, especially near the fence, you can proceed with preventing escape by making your yard even more secure if need be.

Fence in at least one yard with a sturdy fence a minimum of 4 feet high; 6 feet is better. Secure even the narrowest openings; Greyhounds can squeeze through unbelievably narrow spaces.

Lock the fence gate with a brass padlock; brass doesn't rust. Keep the key inside your home. Greyhounds are quite capable of flipping up an unlocked chain link gate latch in the blink of an eye. Other slide-and-hook-over latches are available and work well, but a lock is best.

If your dog is a climber or a jumper, avoid chain link fences. Get a high, solid panel fence with no cross members that allow getting a foot up.

If your dog is a digger, place stone or concrete under the fence.

Keep lawn furniture and equipment away from fences. They make excellent jump-over-the-fence points.

If you have no fence, a leash is mandatory – always, even if obedience-trained. Greyhounds have remarkably poor recall because of their ability to focus on whatever has their attention. Their intelligence and independence can be their downfall when their focus isn't on the owner.

Check to see if your dog's collar is properly fitted. Greyhounds can easily back out of poorly-adjusted martingale collars. The material on properly-fitted martingale collars also stretches over time, so those collars do need to be checked and readjusted periodically.

When walking your hound, place your hand through the leash loop, wrap the leash around your wrist, and hold the leash firmly. Allow a bit of slack between your hand and the dog's neck so the dog will not feel like you have a stranglehold on him. If the hound is startled, hang on. You will not be able to run after and catch your loose Greyhound. If it gets loose, do the opposite of what you want to do; do not chase.

Keep house and vehicle windows opened no more than 6." Greyhounds have been known to escape through partially-opened car and van windows and doors. They can even push house windows open if they get their needle-nose underneath.

Escape-proofing While Inside

Be paranoid about open doors and windows. It takes a split second for a Greyhound – particularly a recently-retired one – to blindly charge out the door or a window because of an interesting new sight, sound or scent.

Be sure children or adults who are not Greyhound-knowledgeable don't open doors leading to the street. Most will not be able to restrain a Greyhound who wants to get out and run.

Be aware of where your dog is whenever anyone opens a door. Front doors are particularly dangerous as they usually lead to an unfenced yard and the street or to a fenced one with an opened gate. A Greyhound nose is very capable of pushing open a door or a gate opened only an inch or a door that has not been clicked shut by the last person going through the door. A gated foyer or vestibule with a second door is ideal if you can arrange that.

How not to Become a Member of the Runaway's Club

(continued)

Ideally rooms leading to exterior areas could have half doors that can be shut when people are coming and going. However, some clever Greyhounds can operate door knobs; they grasp and turn them as well as we can! Doors with lever-type handles are a piece of cake for the determined Greyhound. These need to be dog-proofed as well. Child-proof door knob and door lever guards are available in baby and toddler departments at the mall or hardware store.

Workmen need to be as dog-savvy as you are. Many dogs escape while workers go back and forth from the house to their trucks or to their "workshop" in the garage. If they can't be trusted to be as paranoid about open doors as you are, find some workmen who are.

Garage doors need to be kept closed if an interior door leading to it is ajar. Greyhounds have been killed on moving days because of doors and garage doors needing to be open. Kennel your dogs and other pets on moving day.

It sure sounds like Greyhounds aren't much fun if one has to be so careful about them getting loose. But really, once the preliminary Greyhound escape-proofing is done and you've become accustomed to watching for open doors and gates and checking for properly fitted collars, you won't even think about doing it; it will just become second nature to you. By taking a few precautions your Greyhound is highly unlikely to be hurt or lost and you won't ever need to be separated from your fast friend.

New Adoptions

David Alarid and Kristin Bowling – Raha
 Jane and Vassili Alexiadis – Beatrix
 Susan and Mike Armstead – Frieda
 Ann Barath and Whitney Raab – Jackson
 Bonnie Bennett and Mike Carroll – Ava
 Howard and Robin Blake – Star
 Alette Douglas – Grace
 Barry and Ellen Fitzgerald – Howard
 Mike Foletta – Cowboy & Elsie
 Michael Frost – Jiggler
 Monika Gervais and Leo Carlino – Cutie
 Marcy Golebiewski – Starlet
 Kelley and Steve Graham – Velma
 Joyce and Tim Higgins – Spirit
 Paula Hoelker-Williams and Bob Williams – Susie
 Pat Hughes and Pat Maurer – Mario
 Barbara and David Johnson – Bandit
 Roni and Earl Johnston – Marie
 Cheri Kannarr and James Cabbage – George
 Klaus Kitzmann and Vallan Tyree – Paws
 Diane and Karl Knight – Taffy
 Maryann and Allen Koch – Hanai
 Margaret and Hans Krieger – Mia
 Andy and Shana Laursen – Greyt Scott
 Marni Meister and Mike Kennan – Ellie
 Carla and Andy Melton – Tricky
 Sue and Eric Miller – Rica
 Ken and Debi Murphy – Tango
 Dan and Bic Nguyen – Lacey & Vinnie
 Robert and Constance Oakes – Duke
 Eric and Faiza Pauly – Sugar
 Jim and Shawnee Putnam – Stetson
 Stephen and Nancy Reilly – Tango Boy & Cookie
 Julie Sanborn – Brassy
 Smart and Brent Wright – Moose
 Lawrie Stevens and Susan Garnett – Zeus
 Carol and Rodney Stine – Lucy
 Marie von Felton – Izzy
 Bev Wainwright – Munro
 Jim and Helen Walker – Emma
 Carol Wirth – Carson

SPRING GFFL YARD SALE

The Fall/Winter yard sale that was announced in the last newsletter was moved to the Spring. It has not been scheduled as we go to print, so please check the GFFL Website, the EVENTS page, for location, date, and time.

Kitchen and bath items, bedding, draperies, lamps, furniture, knick-knacks, posters, garden stuff, tools, electronics are all welcome as long as they are clean and in working order. Please, no clothes or books. If you have items to donate, please contact:

EAST BAY – Barbara (510 525-3844, bajudson@gmail.com) or Marni (510-893-6410, studio2423@yahoo.com)

FAIRFIELD/VACAVILLE AREA – Deb (707-372-9555, greyhoundfriend@sbcglobal.net)

SAN FRANCISCO – Regina (regmark@sbcglobal.net)

NORTHERN PENINSULA – Bonnie (650-359-6262, rescuehounds@sbcglobal.net)

MID PENINSULA/SOUTH BAY – Pat (650-948-4881, Hound4@pacbell.net)

AUBURN AREA – Shana (530-269-1231, foothillfosters@yahoo.com)



GFFL Personals

Are you a greyhound home without cats and small dogs? Are you ready to add another greyhound to your family? If so, it's a greyt time to adopt!

We have quite a few greyhounds that cannot live with cats and small animals and are looking for their forever homes. We've also taken in some beautiful greyhounds from an emergency Texas rescue and more will be coming later on. Take a look at www.greyhoundfriendsforlife.org, the ADOPT page, and select VIEW AVAILABLE DOGS to see all the gorgeous greyhounds that are looking for homes, dogs like Flint and Bruno!

Please call Barbara Judson, 510 525-3844, if you are interested in adopting again.



GFFL
154 Ford Road
Carmel Valley, 93924

