



Greyhound Friends for Life *Newsline*

December 2011

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Have you moved, changed your home, cell, or work phone number, or changed your email address?

Did you get the newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service because we didn't have a working email address to let you know the newsletters is available to view online (and in color!)?

Please keep your greyhound's adoption database record up to date and help GFFL be green by sending the newsletter via cost-effective email.

Send your address, phone number, and email address changes to mbczaja@comcast.net, or call 831-659-9225.

Thank You!

All I Want from Santa

GFFL, like all charitable organizations, has been hit hard by the economic downturn. While donations are down and events are generating reduced proceeds, the cost to operate a rescue organization is increasing. Despite the reduction in dog tracks in the United States, the number of ex-racing greyhounds and ex-breeding greyhounds needing adoptive homes doesn't seem to decrease. More greyhounds and sighthound mixes are showing up in shelters, on Craig's list, or in newspapers. Sadly, the unfortunate fallout from the floundering economy is that we are also getting more returns. We also rescued two litters of puppies in the last couple of months – that is, we purchased these litters to make sure that the puppies were spayed and neutered and not used to generate more puppies.

We all recognize that our own pet food and vet bills have increased. Multiply that by a hundred plus dogs, and you'll see why GFFL is feeling the pinch too. While we increased our adoption fee earlier this year, the adoption fees still don't begin to cover the costs incurred getting these dogs ready for adoption.

Each year, we ask adopters to keep GFFL in mind when they are writing checks for year-end donations. We hope that you'll keep us in mind again. Your donations are the reason we can do what we do. All of us enjoy the joy of petting a soft coat and looking into our dog's gentle brown eyes because of the donations of others. We are all greyful and benefit from donations.

This year we thought we'd expand our wish list, thinking that our adopters might prefer to donate in-kind gifts, or direct a donation to something on the list. GFFL could use:

- Stamps for the newsletter
- Reams of printer paper (24 lb) – for printing adoption paper work, newsletter drafts, thank you letters
- Copy services for newsletters
- Gasoline Gift Cards to help transport dogs
- Frontline or Advantix for dogs weighing between 55-85 pounds
- New collars and leashes (it costs us ~\$9.00 per set of day and martingale collars and 4-foot leash, wholesale, from Southern Pet Supplies)
- Large and small black muzzles (Birdwell Enterprises)
- Donations to help defray costs for socialization training at King's Kastle
- Supplies for the kennel (paper towels, HE laundry detergent, dog waste bags, etc).

GFFL thanks you for your continued generosity!



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Greyhound Friends for Life Reunion 2011

All the volunteers did it again! We had a fantabulous reunion the first Sunday in October. The perfect weather had everyone shedding sweatshirts by 10 am and enjoying the comfortable, warm, sunny day! Many people and greyhounds traveled from the Bay Area, from east of Sacramento, and from Monterey County. Dogs and people, as always, enjoyed the very popular Greyhound Games. The delicious aromas wafting from the Greyhound Grill had many people hitting up the Sales Desk for available lunch tickets. The Sales Table was always busy, selling lots of shirts, calendars, dog coats, and other greyhound goodies. People were hanging around the silent auction tables trying to outbid each other for the wonderful auction items. Raffle tickets were sold at the very last second for fun raffle items. Everyone had a wonderful time!

The reunion isn't possible without greyt organization and the help of many volunteers. We can't thank Barbara Judson enough for chairing another reunion. She purchased the food and ordered items for the Sales Table, secured the site, and organized the many volunteers needed to run the reunion.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked hard to set-up, run events, take your money at the Sales Tables, pass out pre-purchased shirts and lunches, give directions, hawk raffle tickets, set up food items, barbeque, tear down, and clean the park after the reunion: Joyce, Hawley, Amy McGonagle and Vince Ward, Betsy Wells and Mike Sapoznikow, Connie Feight, Bonnie Amiot, Margaret Krieger, Vicki and Robert Lambert, Richard Faria, Rowena Morrison, Julie Carroll, Deb and Lyman Dennis, Marni Meister, Sue Tomasello, Larry Pemble and Darin Rieck, Randy Murphy, Sue Skieresz, Layne Hackett and Lynette Masztakowski, Ginny and Dan Pock, Keri Pock and John Tran, Garrett Pock, Betsy McGee, Bill Clarke, Diana Hunter, Burt Greenspan, and the other volunteers who helped with games.

The Silent Auction and Raffle would never happen without the wonderful items donated for the reunion. Some of the unique items at the Sales Table were donated too. Many thanks to Alpha Pet Supply (gift certificate), Cara Brockhoff (8-ball earrings, leather bracelet, art deco statue, ceramic jar), Marie Czaja (logo paintings), Michele Czaja (embroidered greyhound tote bag), Noni Davis (Beading Divas bracelet), Deb and Lyman Dennis (white greyhound statue, fleece vest, t-shirts), Marcy Golebiewski (Dog Dice game, greyhound abalone necklace and earrings, leather bracelet, House of Erte plate, screaming monkeys, street sign, t-shirt, red day collar and matching leash), Diana Hunter ("Mikey" Pendant), Robert and Vicki Lambert (sitting greyhound statue), Barbara Judson (greyhound art, t-shirts, jewelry, etc.), Susan Netboy (t-shirts, jewelry), Elizabeth Ryan and Tam Su (Shades O'Greyhound calendars), Norm Simmons (ceramic greyhound figures, Patti's t-shirts and dog costumes), Kathy Sondej (bathrobe and soaps), Luanne Tromborg (red dog coat, ceramic bowls and stand, cookie jar), Connie Williams and Kalle Nemvalts (Gift Certificates for Albany Sauna and Hot Tubs), and Alicia Wong (black metal raised feeder). Special thanks to Jo Lynch for donating the use of this year's reunion image!

Last, thanks to everyone who attended the reunion and spent their hard-earned cash! We had no doggy mishaps thanks to everyone being attentive to their hounds' needs and reactions. Everyone cleaned up after their hounds and themselves (Thank you!). We raised a lot of money for the greyhounds who will now find homes and join us at next year's reunion!





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Greyhound Friends for Life Reunion 2011 (continued)

The most popular part of the reunion is the Greyhound Games (thanks Betsy, Bill, and Diana) and most of the greyhound attendees were entered in at least one of the games. Looks like some greyhounds are going to have to train harder to beat out multiple winners Newton and Mudge! The winners included:

50-Yard Dash

1. Buster (Deb and Lyman Dennis)
2. Newton (Robert and Vicki Lambert)
3. Jefe (Laura Bush)



Longest Down

1. Joe (Kathy Knotts)
2. Mudge (Claude and Katy Meyer)
3. Sophie (Sue Skieresz)



Hot Dogs

1. Theo (Norm Simms)
2. Sascha (Ruth Ann and Richard Faria)
3. Newton (Robert and Vicki Lambert)



Egg Relay

1. Ivy (Karen Pennington)
2. Hilary (Mitchell and Kathy Knotts)
3. Mudge (Claude and Katy Meyer)



Steeplechase (Sorry, no picture...)

1. Finn (Randy and Trish Murphy)
2. Newton (Robert and Vicki Lambert)
3. Alana (Jennifer Giese)



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More Reunion Pictures



Top 10 Poisons for Dogs

It's good to review the top poisonous items for dogs every once and awhile. During the holidays, we have new foods, plants, and visitors who are, perhaps, not dog-saavy.

- Human medications – Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications like ibuprofen or naproxen cause stomach and intestinal ulcers and kidney failure; Antidepressants may cause vomiting, increase body temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure, and may cause seizures; Isoniazid, a tuberculosis drug, may cause seizures and coma.
- Flea and tick products – Dogs are poisoned when they ingest topical products or are overdosed.
- People food – Chocolate, which contains methylxanthines, causes vomiting in small consumed amounts and death in large amounts; Alcohol causes vomiting, breathing difficulties, and coma; Avocado, which contains Persin, causes vomiting and diarrhea; Macademia nuts causes weakness, overheating, and vomiting; Grapes and raisins can result in kidney failure; and Xylitol, the sweetener by itself or when included in candies and gum, can result in weakness, seizures, and liver failure.
- Rat and mouse poisons – Either eaten directly or from eating a dead rodent.
- Pet medications – Over-medicating is as dangerous for dogs as for humans.
- Household plants including Azaleas and Rhododendrons, Tulip and Daffodil bulbs, Sago Palms, and Poinsettias.
- Antifreeze, paint thinners, and pool chemicals
- Household cleaners
- Heavy metals like lead in paint, linoleum, and batteries; zinc from pennies can lead to gastrointestinal problems.
- Fertilizers

What do you do if you think your pet has been poisoned? Stay calm and act quickly. Gather up the remaining poisonous item. If your pet has vomited, gather some vomit for your veterinarian. Having samples may help your vet make a diagnosis and treatment plan. Call your veterinarian or, if after hours, an emergency veterinarian clinic or hospital for directions on what to do until you arrive at the veterinarian's office. The ASPCA Poison Control Center (APCC) is available to consult with you and your vet. The APCC's phone number is 888-426-4435 and they consult for a consultation fee. The best defense is to avoid having these items available to your greyhounds. Please keep these items out of your home or locked up and out of your greyhound's reach.



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Dear Santa – All I Want is a Home

(Note: Just after the newsletter went to print, Elsie and Jiggler were adopted! For the on-line version of the newsletter, we have substituted Sable and Arlene.)

Dear Santa, I have been at the Auburn Foothill Foster Home longer than any of the other greyhounds here! I hear about something called “home” and wonder what it’s all about. I came to Auburn from Monterey County Animal Shelter and am about 5 years old. I’m not a track dog and Michele and Barbara think that I’m probably an older brother or uncle to the puppies that came to Auburn this Fall. I am very confident, have great leash manners, and love attention. I don’t really like the cats and small dogs I’ve met in Auburn so I would probably prefer to live in a home without them. Even though I’m confident, I like the calm routine at Auburn. Santa, I know I’m a little big for it, but I’d love to be in someone’s Christmas stocking.

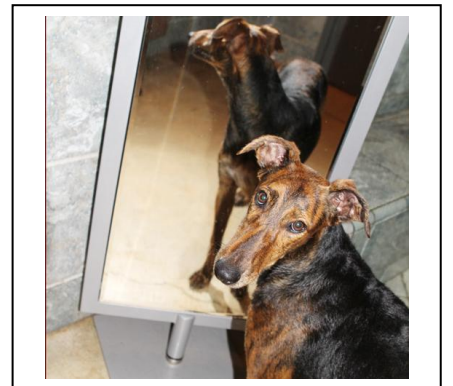
Woo woo woo,
Steinbeck

Dear Santa, I was rescued from the shelter in Colusa a few weeks ago. I’m still a puppy, probably not even a year old. I love to jump, steal things when you’re not looking, but I am smart and gorgeous, if I do say so myself! The nice people in Auburn tested my DNA and it turns out that I am part greyhound, part Airedale! I wonder if I am related to Arlene? Puppy classes will be very beneficial to both of us if you take me home. I like other dogs – greyhounds and non-greyhounds alike, but I like cats too much to live with them.

Fondly,
Sable

Dear Santa, my name is Arlene and I think that I am about 4 years old. I was dropped off in the dropbox of a Southern California shelter a couple of months ago. My ears really hurt because they were fly-bitten and my teeth really needed attention. But I was so happy to be rescued by GFFL and my shining spirit was not broken. When I came to Auburn, my DNA was tested and it turns out that I am a greyhound/Airedale mix, just like Sable! While I like it here in Auburn better than when I was in Southern California, I would really, really like to leave the noise of the foster home and find a home of my own. I am really adorable, have the cutest head-tilt ever, and love attention! I also walk well on leash and will entertain myself with toys. I probably shouldn’t live with cats because I do like to chase them. If I’m properly introduced to a small dog, I would be happy to have one in my pack.

Love and kisses,
Arlene





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Introducing our Greyhounds to the Public

A core group of volunteers in different counties routinely volunteer at meet 'n greets. Some groups are small with only 2 volunteers and their greyhounds, others are well attended with 6-8 volunteers and their greyhounds. Scheduled meet 'n greets and other events are listed on the events page of the GFFL website, <http://www.greyhoundfriendsforlife.org/events.htm>, and are held at:

- The Lighting Studio on 4th Street in Berkeley, contact Ginny Pock, 510-526-2691 or ginnypock@gmail.com or Mary Ann Botner, 510-841-8540 or MABotner@netzero.com
- Pet Centered in Fairfield, contact Deb Dennis, 707-372-9555 or greyhoundfriend@comcast.net
- Pet Smart and Pet Food Express in San Carlos, contact Connie Feight, 650-593-5892 or feightject@sffmail.net
- Several venues on the Peninsula, including Happy Go Lucky Dog Boutique in San Jose, contact Laurie Gilmour, 650-218-8948 or gilmour.laurie@gene.com
- Pet Food Express in Carmel, contact Michele Czaja, 831-659-9225 or mbczaja@comcast.net

These groups need some help with additional volunteers. Meet 'n greets typically last between 2-3 hours. Ideally, we like 3-4 human volunteers and their greyhounds on each shift, although the number of dogs depends on space available. If people see a group of 4 greyhounds, they will stop, pet our dogs, and ask questions. While meet 'n greets rarely result in an immediate adoption, they plant seeds not only for the visitors but often for their circle of friends and family.

GFFL also participates in annual events – the Concours D'Elegance in San Carlos, the Pumpkin Festival, Carmel Halloween Parade, Los Altos Pet Parade, Bark in the Park, Dance for Rescue, Solano Stroll, Golden Gate Kennel Club, and many others. Some of the events are 2-day, 8-hour volunteer opportunities and require 8-12 volunteers and their greyhounds split into multiple shifts. For the parades, the more the merrier! A few rows of greyhounds is a wonderful and memorable sight!

GFFL also has some formal fun walks scheduled from time to time. We have an annual New Years Day Walk at the Bonnie Doon Airport and a fun hike at Henry Cowell Park in Felton each July/August. In Monterey, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Marin counties, occasional fun walks are scheduled. Fun walks generate interest from passers-by and it's a good idea to have some GFFL business cards available to pass out. I find that the hikes and walks are the greyhounds' favorite GFFL volunteer event! From time to time, an impromptu walk is also announced on the GFFL Facebook page.

After a meet and greet at Pet Food Express in Carmel, we went out for lunch in Carmel. We had more people stop and ask us about our Greyhounds than we did at our Meet 'n Greet event! We decided that we'll get together sometime during the month for a breakfast or lunch out with our hounds.

Meeting up at a meet 'n greet, a parade, a walk, or for a coffee is a greyt way to show off your greyhounds and spend time with people who share a common interest. Please consider spending an hour or two a month advocating greyhound adoption and volunteer for a meet n greet.





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GFFL Contact Information

Emergency Lost & Found	1-800-GHOUNDS
Adoptions – <i>Barbara Judson</i>	510-525-3844
Alameda – <i>Ginny Pock</i>	510-526-2691
Contra Costa – <i>Barbara Judson</i>	510-525-3844
Marin – <i>Betsy McGee</i>	415-925-1314
Peninsula – <i>Bonnie Amiot</i>	650-359-6262
Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey Counties – <i>Michele Czaja</i>	831-659-9225
Sacramento/Auburn – <i>Shana Laursen</i>	530-320-9144
Napa/Solano – <i>Deb Chadbourne-Dennis</i>	707-399-9712
Sonoma – <i>Lisa Pinto</i>	707-792-9288
Northern California – <i>Nora Star</i>	707-277-9167
Change of Address	mbczaja@comcast.net or 831-659-9225
GFFL Website	www.greyhoundfriendsforlife.org



Holiday Open House and Boutique

December 10, 1-4pm
at the Foothill Foster Facility in Auburn

Festivities include greyt company, light refreshments, pet portraits, shelter tours, and boutique shopping.



2012 GFFL Calendars are Available!

Call or email Norm at 650-948-4881 or hound4@pacbell.net

New Adoptions

Nancy Bean & Debra Stretch	Cam
Candice Carruth & Howard Erickson	Haas
Amy & Chris Clark	Fifi
Tamara Connell & Dan Button	Chloe
Linda Dahl	LucyLu
Joe, Kaye, & Cale De Luca	Bubbles
Megan & David Gutelius	Cindy
Rona Halpern & Harvey Brodsky	Mandy
Pam Hanback & Don Vilfer	Cetti
Tracey Higley	Carol
Lilia & Greg Johnson	Thunder
Karen Lewis	Blaze
Joyce Lively & Ronald Kardon	CeCe
Debbie & Dean Mangels	Azure
Violet Manoa	Goldyllocks
Lynda & Tim McKinney	Andi
Melani & Randy Nardone	Alice
Kim and Kurt Oesterreicher	Annie
Lynda Osborne	Sarai
Judy Reynolds	Star
Victoria and Elliot Rogers	Happy & Maria
Sandra & Thomas Rose	Mary
Sheryl Ross & Susan Thomas	Carlton
Carol Mei Lin Sam	Amy
Peggy & Robert Slyker	Faye
Jacquelyn Walton	Louie
Emily Weil	Riley
Kathy & Rod Winegarner	Elaine & Mylo
Stephanie Williams	Aver
Chris & Christina McCarty	Bruin
Sean Dulany & Steph Artis	Sheri & Smyth
Tanya Smart & Brent Wright	Kopi

Welcome to the GFFL family!

Have a newsletter idea?

- Need some information that you think would be good to share in the newsletter?
- Have a story or picture you want to share?

Email Michele Czaja at mbczaja@comcast.net.

Thank You!



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The majority of us lead quiet, unheralded lives as we pass through this world. There will most likely be no ticker-tape parades for us, no monuments created in our honor. But that does not lessen our possible impact, for there are scores of people waiting for someone like us to come along; people who will appreciate our compassion, our encouragement, need our unique talents. Someone who lives a happier life merely because we took the time to Share what we had to give...

VOLUNTEER!



GFFL
154 Ford Rd
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

