

Summer 2010

Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption

Established 1991

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the Web at:
www.b-g-a.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WHAT'S AHEAD? THE FAIR,
THE PICNIC, THE GARAGE SALE AND
ANOTHER RALLY TO THE RESCUE ...

GREYHOUNDS ON THE ROAD AT
NURSING HOMES & SCHOOLS ... AND MORE!



From the President: *by Debbie Doxey*

For those of you who followed my previous letters, I am happy to report that I finally found a little black metal fence that has blocked Sydney from her digging spot! (She, of course, found *another* spot, but at least this time, it's way in the back of the yard!) If anyone needs a tip on balancing gardens and greyhounds, just let me know ...

The little fence was a minor victory, since it has otherwise been a tough spring at our house. Skye (O Ya Sunny Sky) lost a well-fought battle with bone cancer at the end of April, and we all miss him. He was named very appropriately - as he kept his sunny personality until the very end. Thanks to many of you for your support and advice. It helped so much to have a network of BGA friends to turn to at a very difficult time.

2010 is shaping up to be an important year for BGA and greyhound adoption groups across the country. Most northeastern tracks, as well as some southern tracks, have already closed, and there is speculation that more closings will soon follow. With fewer options, more racing greyhounds, as well as breeders, may find themselves with nowhere to go. The good news is that BGA is seeking more applications, has been very successful with recent fund-raising initiatives, and is working harder than ever to spread the word about the many benefits of adopting a greyhound.

For instance, we've increased our presence at local events, including our return this year to the Erie County Fair in August. (See page 2 or check out the BGA Digest for more information on how you and your "greyt" pet can help out at events.) For those who have volunteered at the fair in the past, we will be inside this year, which should be easier on the dogs ... and us, too, as our hounds (including my Cedric) may be less likely to chase the bungee ride instead of entertaining guests!

Critical to the process of helping greyhounds find forever homes is fostering and, if we are going to grow the number of dogs we can help, we need more foster homes. Whether a foster family can be available on a regular basis, once or twice a year, or just for a few days as needed, we can use their help. Fostering can be a lot of fun and very rewarding - and you can tell from the unconditional affection of a newly retired racer how much it means to him or her. We'll be holding training sessions for anyone interested in fostering, so please let us know.

Sometimes it's as simple as building a small fence. Or volunteering for a few hours at the fair or your local farmer's market. Sometimes it may mean opening your door - and your heart - to a newly retired greyhound as the first step to their forever home. And sometimes, it means adopting one or more of these beloved creatures ... and eventually losing a little bit of your heart when they cross the "rainbow bridge" at the end of a rewarding life. Regardless of your commitment to BGA and its mission, I can assure you - you'll be glad you did it.

- *Debbie*

Mark Your Calendar ... Upcoming Opportunities to Support BGA

Visit the Finger Lakes ... on the Grapehound Wine Tour

The Grapehound Wine Tour is an annual celebration of greyhounds and greyhound adoption, held in the picturesque Finger Lakes wine region of New York. Featured are wine tastings, vendors and concerts. Greys are allowed to visit participating wineries with their owners. This year's Grapehound Wine Tour takes place Thursday, July 29 through Sunday, Aug. 1 at Seneca Lake, New York. You can get more information and register on line at www.grapehounds.com.

Time for the Fair ...

BGA is back at the Erie County Fair! Volunteers and their hounds are needed to fill three shifts (morning, afternoon and evening) from Wednesday, Aug. 11 through Sunday, Aug. 22. Volunteers receive free admission to the fair for the day. To volunteer or for more information, contact Debbie Doxey, 836-3426 or Debdoxey@verizon.net, or Gail Riggs, 667-0843 or tmcchm@gmail.com.

2010 BGA Picnic: Sept. 11 at Beaver Island State Park

Save the date! This year's Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA) Picnic takes place Saturday, Sept. 11 at Beaver Island State Park, Grand Island, in a "greyt" pavilion located between the playground and the beach. There will be games and raffles for children, adults ... and maybe even the dogs!

Burgers, hot dogs and soda will be provided. Bring a side dish - for humans and/or dogs - to share. The picnic is free to BGA families, subject to parking fees at Beaver Island.

For more information, contact Laurie Graziano, 636-0971 or grazialm@buffalostate.edu. See you there!

Everyone Loves a Garage Sale ... Especially to Benefit BGA

BGA will participate in a neighborhood garage sale in Cheektowaga in September. As you complete your summertime clean-up jobs, please consider donating any gently used, unwanted items to this fundraiser. Donations may be made by contacting Carolyn, 681-7928.

Please note that BGA cannot accept used clothing, stuffed animals or electronics. BGA sincerely appreciates anything you can donate! (The sale was originally scheduled for June but has been moved to September.)



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Win Big in BGA's Fall Lottery

Tickets go on sale in August for BGA's September 2010 daily lottery drawings. Tickets cost \$5 each. If you would like to buy or sell BGA lottery tickets, please contact Dave Heckmiller at theheckmillers@aol.com. Please make a commitment to sell at least five tickets on behalf of BGA!



Mary Leslie and Lucy are pictured at the spring 2010 BGA Bubble Bath.

For Your Favorite Four-Pawed Friend ... A Bubble Bath Spa Day

Bring your grey - or other dogs - to BGA's next Bubble Bath on Sunday, October 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dennison residence, 912 Main St., West Seneca. Treat your pet to a gentle brushing, soothing bath, nail clipping and ear cleaning. Also included are a bandanna and a biscuit - and gentle volunteers are available if needed to help your dog up and down the stairs. Cost is \$15 with all proceeds benefiting BGA.

At the Bubble Bath, BGA will be selling "greyt" merchandise including shirts, decals, books, embroidered baseball caps, jewelry, fleece scarves and faux leather 4 Dog logo embroidered purses. To make an appointment or volunteer

to help out, please contact Gail Vaughan, 634-9686 or tbvaughan@roadrunner.com.

Purina Pro Plan to Sponsor Second Rally to the Rescue

Due to an overwhelming response to the first annual Pro Plan Rally to the Rescue in 2009 (held at McKinley Mall), Purina Pro Plan will sponsor a second annual event this year. Rally to the Rescue will take place Saturday, Nov. 20 at the American Legion, 3740 North Buffalo Road, Orchard Park. Ten not-for profit pet rescue organizations, including Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, will participate.



Visitors get to know BGA greyhounds at the 2009 Rally to the Rescue at McKinley Mall.

BGA Needs You!

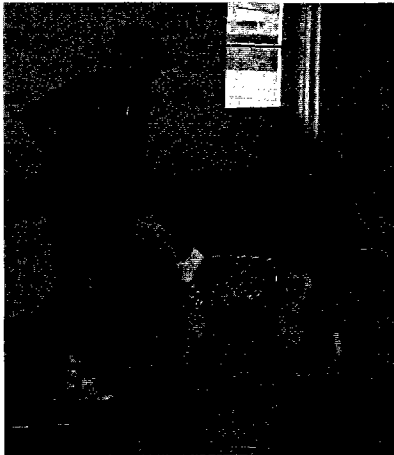
The BGA lottery and other fund-raising activities help keep adoption costs down ... They are critical to the ongoing success of the BGA mission. More volunteers are needed! If you are willing to help, please contact Gail Vaughan, 634-9686 or tbvaughan@roadrunner.com or Mary Schreiner, 627-7785 or bgaevents@mac.com. Why not give it a try?

"Celebrating Greyhounds"

Do you know someone who has opened their home - and their heart - to adopt a senior (aged seven or older) or special needs greyhound? If so, they are eligible for one free copy of *Celebrating Greyhounds* magazine. To get this free issue, owners should send an e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.com and include a description of their greyhound with age and/or details of the dog's special need(s), the name of their adoption group, and their name and mailing address. The magazine's purpose is to provide information about greyhounds as a breed. A yearly subscription includes four (quarterly) issues and is priced at \$25.

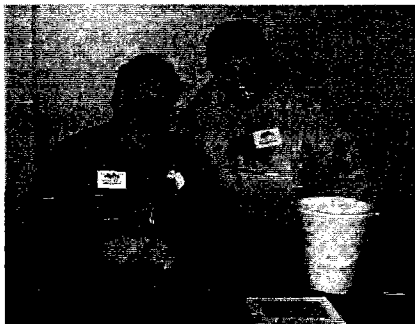
Another "Greyt" Year for the BGA Expo

by Laurie Graziano



The Gilley Girls performed two shows at the BGA Expo held in April at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg.

The weather this year was not "greyt" but at least it didn't snow! More than 300 people came on a rainy, gloomy day to attend the Expo. This was our second year in the Marketplace Building at the Fairgrounds, which seems to be working out well.



Volunteers like Michelle and Gregg Prince were instrumental in making the Expo a success.

The Expo was a huge success. Several non-profit organizations, along with BGA, made money to support their quest to help animals. The fund-raising area was very busy, with volunteers hustling and bustling. Among the events was a Chinese auction, with many items donated by area businesses. This added to the fun and excitement of the day, especially at the end, when winning tickets were drawn for prizes.

Again, thank you to all the volunteers who helped run the show. We couldn't have done it without you!

By 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 18, another Buffalo Greyhound Adoption Expo had been put to bed and everybody was tired out - especially the dogs!

This was the fourth year that my husband Keith and I ran the Expo. Every year seems to get easier. We're always blessed with numerous volunteers who help make the Expo a success. Being a large event, there are several different jobs to be filled. I cannot thank everyone enough for donating their time and energy.

We were lucky enough to book the Gilley Girls - a singing and dancing greyhound musical comedy revue. They performed two shows, during which greyhounds delighted and amazed audiences with their dancing, leaps and jumps. Their newest greyhound, Trix, performed her first show that day and did very well.

Fund raising played an important part at the Expo. Numerous items were sold, which raised a lot of money to benefit BGA. The fund-raising



The History of the Greyhound

Did you know ... the first European dogs to set paw in the New World were greyhounds who accompanied Christopher Columbus on his second expedition, which set sail from Spain in September 1493?

While greyhounds were long held in high esteem in England, they did not accompany the Pilgrims to America on the Mayflower in 1620 - because at that time, greyhounds were not considered a dog "of the people." They were hunters and coursers. In fact, until 1700, it was illegal for a commoner to own a greyhound.

The first sign of a greyhound in an English settlement in the United States is the seal of a man named Richard Waterman, in 1729 in Massachusetts.

(Source: *The Reign of the Greyhound* by Cynthia A. Branigan)

Greyhounds at School



Mrs. Krolczyk, right, fifth grade teacher at Mary Queen of Angels Regional Catholic School, presents a donation collected from the school's dress down day to Mary Schreiner of Buffalo Greyhound Adoption.

Students in grades 5 and 7 at Mary Queen of Angels Regional Catholic School, Cheektowaga, conducted a service project during the month of May to support Buffalo Greyhound Adoption. They held a dress down day and raised \$156, plus a \$20 donation. And, they collected gently used towels and blankets for use at dog washes and bubble baths. Last but not least, they collected \$94.56 to support Pennies for Paws.

Mary Schreiner, Debra Dennison and Dick Murzynski visited the children and spoke on the history of greyhound racing and how the dogs acclimate to life as pets.

**Thank you MQA
for your support!**



Fifth and seventh grade Mary Queen of Angels students held a school-wide towel and blanket drive and donated their collection to BGA. There were enough towels and blankets to fill three cars.

Memorial Donation Supports BGA ... And BGA Supports Kitten Adoption Group

* Sincere thanks to Lynn and Larry Fijas of South Buffalo, who made a generous donation to Buffalo Greyhound Adoption in memory of a special greyhound in their lives. His name was Buddy and he was "a loving and gentle family member." The family thanked BGA for "all the wonderful work that you do."

* BGA recently supported the Piece of Heaven kitten adoption group with the donation of a computer and a printer.



Debra Dennison, Dick Murzynski and Mary Schreiner - with their greys - talk to students about greyhound rescue and adoption.

ABOUT PENNIES FOR PAWS"

Pennies for Paws is a non-profit organization that assists people who cannot afford health care for their dogs or cats. They are in touch with vets who donate services and time to help. The Pennies for Paws philosophy is to support local pets and non-profit organizations in the communities where they take donations.



Meet & Greet Buffalo Greyhounds

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption holds monthly Meet & Greets for potential owners to get to know the world's "greytest" pets. Volunteers are always needed! Meet & Greets take place the first Saturday of every month from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at McKinley Mall, Hamburg and the fourth (and fifth, if applicable) Saturday of every month from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at Walden Galleria, Cheektowaga.

Listed below are other BGA Meet & Greet events:

* Saturday, July 10 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Williamsville Farmer's Market, Glen Park

* Saturday, July 24 - 7 P.M. - Town Crime

Watch Meeting, Tonawanda, NY



* Thursday, July 29 - 8

p.m. - Cruisin' at the Lube - Quaker Steak & Lube - Transit Road near Wehrle Drive (in front of Regal Cinemas

... Come enjoy a classic car show and then dunk some BGA members in the dunk tank! All proceeds will benefit BGA!

* Saturday, July 31 - 9 a.m. to noon -

East Aurora Valu Home Center

* Sunday, Aug. 1 - Food Bank Walk & Festival, Temple

Beth Am, 4600 Sheridan Drive., Williamsville

* Saturday, Aug. 28 - Kenmore Farmer's Market

* Saturday, Aug. 28 - noon to 5 p.m. - Wheatfield

Community Picnic, Fairmont Park, Nash Road

If you'd like to help out, contact Gail Vaughan, 634-9686 or tbvaughn@roadrunner.com or Mary Schreiner, 627-7785 or bgaevents@mac.com unless other contact names are listed.

Volunteers Sought for BGA Lost Dog Committee

Losing a dog could happen to anyone. We all take precautions, but even so, mistakes can occur.

Think about how you would feel if your dog was lost ...

Please consider joining BGA's Lost Dog Committee. Once you volunteer, you may be called upon whenever a greyhound is lost in your area.

At a time when they might need help the most, local greyhound owners may need you! If you are interested, please contact Michelle Moore at 393-3268 or 803-5317 or segogirl@yahoo.com.

A sincere thanks to all the terrific volunteers who already serve on the Lost Dog Committee!



Coming Up: BGA New Adopter Social

A social for owners who have recently adopted greyhounds through Buffalo Greyhound Adoption will take place Friday, July 16 at 6 p.m. at 40 Audley End, Amherst - hosted by BGA President Debbie Doxey and other members of the BGA Board of Directors.

Come join other new greyhound families for drinks and snacks and learn more about the organization that brought you your grey.

RSVP to Michelle Moore, 393-3268 or 803-5317 or segogirl@yahoo.com.

Welcome to the Pack

Welcome to these greyhounds who are recent BGA adoptees:

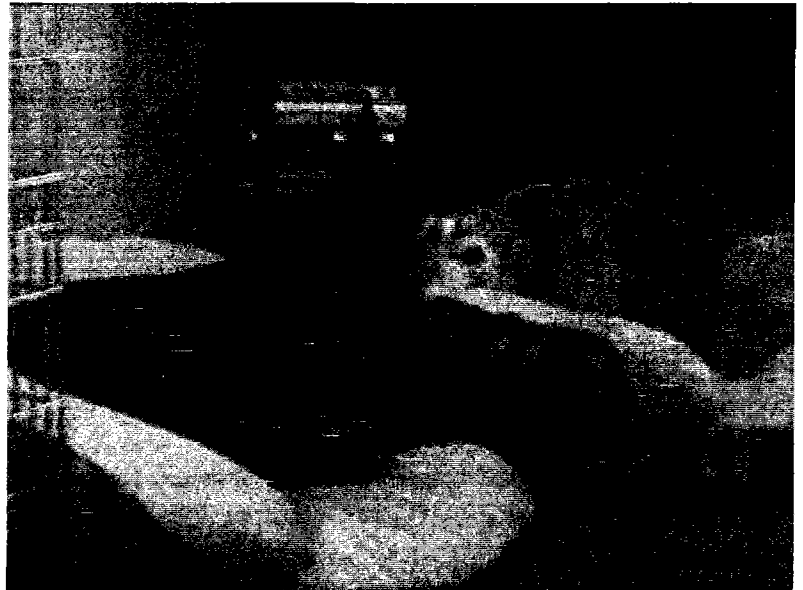
Monty Bezak
Enda Cooley
Daniel Doxey
Buffy Drust
Pluto Giglia
Jake Prince
Jesse Stevic
Birdie Woods

Dog Tales ... Greyhounds Interact with Nursing Home Residents

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA) volunteer and supporter Kathy Claycomb owns a special trio of dogs - Rosie, Cari and Mini-Me. For the past three years, they have been visiting three area nursing homes and a senior apartment building once a month and a fourth nursing home twice a month. For resident and dogs, the experience is a "win win" situation.

The three greys are certified therapy dogs. Visits are scheduled on a regular basis, so residents know when the dogs are coming to visit and greatly look forward to it, according to Claycomb. She reported that "one of the nurses told me one time that a resident told her that if she is sleeping when we come, to be sure to wake her up because she doesn't want to miss the dogs."

"We've noticed that not only do the residents enjoy the dogs,



Rosie and Mini Me are two of Kathy Claycomb's three greyhounds who visit area nursing homes and senior apartment buildings. Like them, your greyhound could be certified as a pet therapy dog.

but their visitors also get a lot of enjoyment from them," Claycomb said. "It provides interaction between resident and visitor, as they remember dogs of their own that they had in the past."

"Recently, we were privileged to be guest speakers at the Golden Ager luncheon at Salem Lutheran Church, for which we received a very generous donation. Rosie and Mini-Me had a good time and even got to share a piece of cake," she added.

In May, BGA received a similar donation from a visitor at Wedgewood Nursing Home.

If you have some extra time, why not consider having your greyhound certified as a pet therapy dog and bring a lot of happiness to folks who are no longer able to enjoy a dog of their own?

Farewell My Friend ...

Skye (O Ya Sunny Sky) Doxey
Jack (SC's Magic Maker) Gannon
Bella (HR's Mini Winnie) Heckmiller
Girlie (Jake's Girlie) Weiss
Kori (BB's Korinakicks) Weichmann
Phoebe Woods



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BGA & Ten Lives Club: One Sweet Partnership

BGA will partner with Ten Lives Club on Sweetest Day (Saturday, Oct. 16) and host the Rescue and Runways Fashion Show from 12:30 to 3:15 p.m. at Michael's Banquet Hall, Southwestern Boulevard, Hamburg. In addition to a fashion show featuring greyhounds and other rescue pets, look for BGA merchandise, raffles and more. For more information or to help out with this exciting addition to BGA's fund-raising event calendar, please contact Gail Riggs at 667-0843 or tmcchm@gmail.com.



CHECK YOUR GREYHOUND'S NAME TAG

Is your dog's name tag current and easy to read?

If it has a number below 4000 or is scratched or faded, contact Debbie Doxey, 836-3426 or ddoxey@verizon.net for a new Buffalo Greyhound Adoption tag.

**Better safe
than sorry!**

Announcing BGA's Photo Contest



Send your favorite photo of your greyhound - and tell us why you love your dog and the photo!

Please e-mail all entries to BGA Newsletter Editor Diane Zwirecki at dzwirecki@roadrunner.com.

Each issue of *Off Track Pets* will feature a story about the winner of the "I Love My BGA Greyhound Contest." Winners will receive a coupon for a free BGA tote bag and a bubble bath.