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Summer 2011

## BGA Fun in the Summertime ... And Throughout Our 20th Anniversary Year!

What better time than summer for greyhounds to get out and meet their adoring public?

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption is in the midst of a full summer schedule of "meet and greets," along with other events to celebrate the joy of adopting and owning a grey, as well as this year's observance of BGA's 20th anniversary.

Meet and greets have included Martin's Fantasy Island Adoption Weekend, the Clarence Hollow Farmer's Market, Ben Franklin Middle School, the Walden Galleria, the Friendship Festival at Buffalo's Riverside Park, the Cheektowaga Independence Day Parade, McKin-

ley Mall and the Williamsville Farmer's Market.

Coming up on Saturday, July 30 is the 3rd Annual McKinley Mall Pet Expo sponsored by Purina Pro Plan and Rally to the Rescue. BGA will have a booth at the event from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check out the details at [www.McKinleyMallPetExpo.com](http://www.McKinleyMallPetExpo.com).

BGA will have a booth at the Erie County Fair, which runs from Thursday, Aug. 11 through Sunday, Aug. 21 at the fairgrounds in Hamburg. Look for BGA in the Bazaar Building. Anyone who makes a donation of at least \$5 will receive a special gift.

Additional mall and farmer's market meet and greets also are scheduled.

The fun continues into the fall. BGA will hold a Bowling Extravaganza on Saturday, (cont'd on p. 3)



*BGA was the featured animal rescue group at the Clarence Hollow Farmer's Market on Saturday, June 18 ... much to the delight of the younger shoppers! BGA makes a return visit to the market on Saturday, Aug. 27.*



**Off Track Pets**  
News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption - Established 1991

FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Greys are a Family Affair

by Debbie Doxey

After too long a wait, summer has finally arrived in Western New York – and now it's going by way too quickly. My best wishes to all of you for a safe and happy rest of the summer.

Since our last newsletter, I'm happy to report that, not only have we stopped waiting for summer, but my 26th foster dog has stopped waiting for a home – actually I guess he had already found one. Our new brindle boy has discovered his confidence and personality and is now just a happy, goofy two-year old... So now we have, not only a new greyhound, but a new (used) mini-van to take around the hounds and their stuff and the tents and tables and things we need for our summer outings. (I'm still not sure how to explain to non-greyhound people why a childless person has a mini-van, but I'm working on that.)

B's Flyin' Padre is the ninth greyhound to join our extended family, beginning with my first greyhound, Twilite Gale back in 1999 (of whom Padre reminds me). The other day, one of my greyhound-owning sisters, Denise, was teasing me about how, when I first adopted Gale, within a day, I had memorized every bit of minutia about her, including her littermates, ear tattoos and racing history (albeit short, so not that challenging). I couldn't tell her a thing about Padre. As the years have passed and more dogs have joined the family, and many foster dogs have come and gone, it just seemed more important that he is happy and adjusting well to retirement. But, my sister's inquiry got me doing some late night research, looking back at stats on the family greyhounds – meaningless anymore, but kind of fun and interesting nonetheless.

So based on my research, my other sister, Diane (aka your OTP editor) and her family have unequivocal bragging rights in the family when it comes to our dogs' racing success. Wholesale was an "open" racer, ran 146 races, won a prestigious race (with a name) or two and was once "racer of the year". He was the best racer the (cont'd on p. 3)



*Several members of the family joined me June 18 at the Clarence Hollow Farmer's Market, where BGA was the featured animal rescue group. (We'll be back in August!) From left, Daniel and Wholesale enjoyed visiting with BGA volunteer Lisa Greig and her hound, Angus. If you look closely, you might spot my Mom, Kay Doxey, in the background. And the guy at the table is my brother-in-law Paul Zwirecki, who's holding Sydney on a leash. Wholesale belongs to Paul and Diane, who was taking the photo. And Mom's grey, Oscar, was there, too. Are you following all this??*

## BGA Board of Directors

Debbie Doxey, President  
Debdoxey@verizon.net  
716-836-3426

Gail Riggs  
Vice President  
tmcchm@gmail.com  
716-667-0843

Laurie Graziano  
Treasurer  
grazialm@buffalostate.edu  
716-636-0971

Marc Kotarski, Secretary  
Marc.Kotarski@yahoo.com  
716-912-7797

Sue Murzynski  
Adoptions  
suehappytails@aol.com  
716-655-0819

Mary Schreiner, Events  
bgaevents@mac.com  
716-627-7785

Gail Vaughan  
Fund Raising  
tbvaughan@roadrunner.com  
716-634-9686

Michelle Moore  
Communications  
segogirl@yahoo.com  
716-393-3268

Diane Zwirecki  
Newsletter Editor  
dzwirecki@roadrunner.com  
716-983-2978

## **From the President: A Family Affair (cont'd from p. 2)**

family has had, although I swear you would never guess that if you met him and watched him try to navigate a slippery floor. Denise's dog, Candy, was rated "A" and the first greyhound to win three consecutive races at Seabrook, before having a career-ending injury in her 14th race. Three other current family hounds were "A" racers, including my Sydney and Daniel. Although I still blame the weather, this might explain why my lawn looks so bad. (My sweet bridge dogs, Gale and Skye, were not such good racers, but could not have been better companions and were a bit better on the grass).

Well, Padre was rated "D". He ran 14 races, but like Gale, never made it to the big leagues, retiring at the age of 1 1/2. And speaking of "big leagues", I've determined based on my recent late-night research, that judging from his littermates' names (which I now know as I did my first dog's), my new hound is probably not named for a Spanish priest, but a National League baseball team.

At the end of the day, none of this means anything. It really doesn't matter how well, or where, or if, our greyhounds raced, or who was in their litter. Each one is a winner and what matters most is that he or she has a happy, comfortable place when its career is over.

Last but not least, happy tenth birthday to my big Cedric (aka Brusco) and his littermate Joker – neither of whom ever raced. You boys are still the best!

Have a great rest of the summer, everyone!



## **BGA Fun (cont'd from p. 1)**

Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. at Infant of Prague Parish Center, Cheektowaga. Cost is \$15 per person and includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza and wings. Registration is limited to 40 people. To register, contact Vince at 393-3268 or mrkobay@yahoo.com.

BGA's annual meat raffle is set for Friday, Nov. 4 at the Matthew Glab Post, Lackawanna, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. and the first spin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each or \$35 for a table of eight. A cash bar will be available. Baked goods are needed for dessert. To help with the meat raffle or purchase tickets, call: Christine (South Buffalo) at 827-8347; Irene (Buffalo) at 875-8690; Marc (Cheektowaga) at 902-7797; Carolyn (Cheektowaga) at 681-7928; Sue (Elma) at 655-0819; Jan (Hamburg) at 866-1543; Karen (West Seneca) at 675-1237, or Gail (Williamsville) at 634-8686.

BGA will hold an Anniversary Celebration Dinner Saturday, Nov. 19 at Lily of the Valley Banquet Hall, Cheektowaga. Watch for more information!



## **WELCOME TO THE PACK**

**Welcome to these greyhounds who are recent BGA adoptees:**

**Saffire Burgio**

**Flounder Butler**

**Beth Butler**

**Brian Chapman**

**Kami DeBiasi**

**Padre Doxey**

**Isaac Eaton**

**Mya Fischer**

**Amy Gray**

**Free Hammond**

**Mac Howe**

**Bella Lingle**

**Myrtle Naughton**

**Shawn Naughton**

**Puddy Shanahan**

# SEPARATION ANXIETY

By Lynda Adame

Originally Printed in Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine

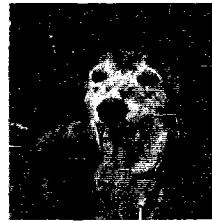
One of the most common complaints heard from the owners of companion dogs is that their dogs engage in disruptive behavior when left alone. This disruptive behavior, commonly referred to as separation anxiety, is actually a distress response to separation from the person or companions to whom the dog is attached. Ex-racing greyhounds that are placed in homes as lone dogs often exhibit separation anxiety. This can be explained by understanding their unique past and realizing that they have never been alone or out of the company of other greyhounds before. Combine this with the fact that they may never have been inside a real home, with humans that actually want to love and pet them, and you have a dog that could become anxious when left alone.

Separation anxiety behaviors are exhibited by male and female dogs with equal frequency and are not breed or age related (except at the time of weaning). One of the key differentiating features between other behavioral disorders and separation anxiety is that the dog engages in separation responses within a short time after being left alone – often within minutes. These behaviors typically peak within five to 30 minutes of being left, and then gradually decline. The disruptive behaviors associated with separation anxiety are commonly broken down into the following categories: elimination behaviors, destructive behaviors and excessive vocalization. One of the most important things an owner can do is to realize and accept that the dog is not being disruptive on purpose. Dogs don't understand complicated human emotions like spite or revenge, they are simply responding to the stress they are feeling by acting out behaviorally and physiologically.



There is a fascinating sequence of events that take place inside a dog in response to stress. The sequence starts with the dog interpreting the situation as "stressful" in the cerebral cortex and then passing this information down to the limbic system via nerve impulses. The limbic system, the part of the brain where emotional responses are made, creates a physical display to suit the emotional response as well as physiological changes in the body. These physical adjustments – rapid bounding heart rate, prolonged rapid panting, eye pupils large and dilated,

extensive drooling and salivation, adrenaline release to increase blood pressure and loose, fluid bowel motion – occur automatically, with no conscious effort on the part of the greyhound. Since the dog is not doing this on purpose, punishing is not the key. Punishment used incorrectly can result in negative side effects that actually magnify separation anxiety. For example, a



## Eat, Drink ... and Support BGA!

New Day Coffee Roasters continues to team up with Buffalo Greyhound Adoption to offer delicious, gourmet coffee at reasonable prices. Both whole bean and pre-ground coffees are available.

Single pot (2-ounce) bags cost \$1.75, 12-ounce bags cost \$8.50 and 16-ounce bags are priced at \$10. A wide variety of single origin, blended and flavored coffees may be ordered. For more information or to place your order, call Karen at 675-1237.

Also sold to benefit BGA are Niagara chocolate bars and Sarri's chocolate covered pretzels, priced at \$1 apiece. If you are willing to sell these items, call Jan at 866-1543.

If you prefer to support BGA while enjoying a Grand Slam meal, visit Denny's at Main Street and Harlem Road, Snyder, on Sunday, Aug. 21. BGA will earn 10 percent of all sales that day. For more information, call Carolyn at 681-7928.

dog will not associate punishment with separation anxiety if it is punished at the spot of misbehavior after the owner returns; instead, the dog might learn to anticipate punishment when the owner returns and exhibit fearful submissive behavior, which the owner interprets as guilt.



The goal is to gradually acclimate the dog to being alone. Initially, you should set up many short separations from the dog that last less time than it takes the dog to demonstrate the anxiety response. For some dogs, this period initially may be only one or two seconds long and you might only go to another room in the house. As you have successes,

gradually increase the duration of the separation periods. Present the dog with a safety cue when leaving. This cue should be a consistent statement ("Be good. I'll be right back.") or action (leaving a TV or radio on). Leave the dog with something to occupy it, like the Buster Cube or a hollowed out bone stuffed with peanut butter or a jerky strip. The Buster Cube is a toy that holds 1 ¼ cup of dog kibble inside its compartments and releases small amounts of kibble as the dog works the cube and rolls it a certain way. Studies have demonstrated that dogs respond better to departures when the lengths are varied. A dog that can tolerate being alone for an hour can usually tolerate being alone for an entire day.

Confining a dog with separation anxiety may

work, but the experts feel that the confinement of a crate can add to the panic of the dog. Crates are not recommended in the treatment of separation anxiety, but confining the dog to your bedroom with a baby gate can provide a soothing secure environment for the dog.

Drug therapy is the new frontier in treating separation anxiety. Please be extremely careful when using any anti-anxiety medication on a greyhound (or any sight hound) because of their unique liver metabolism. Dr. Harry Newman, a sight hound experienced veterinarian who works with adoption groups in the Buffalo area, provided this information: "In greyhounds, as in other dogs, I strongly urge owners to try behavior modification techniques and only resort to anti-anxiety medication as a last resort. I recommend running a complete blood panel prior to starting these dogs and a repeat panel one to two weeks after starting them. I closely monitor liver enzymes as well as all the other organ functions. Some of the current drugs used are Prozac, Amytriptylline, Buspirone and Inderal. This type of therapy is new and there is not much data on reactions observed in greyhounds."

Regardless of the drug or the dose regimen used, owners should be warned of the range of side effects and it must be stressed that these drugs should be used temporarily. The subject of separation anxiety comes up frequently on the Greyhound-1 email list and seems to afflict lone dogs. There is one cure for separation anxiety that has worked near miracles for the owners on that list and that is the addition of a second dog into the household, preferably another greyhound.

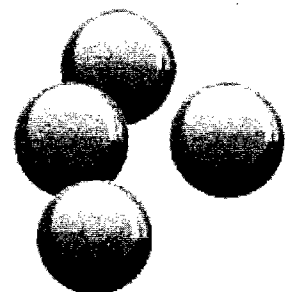
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## *Next Bubble Bath Set for October 16*

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's next Bubble Bath Spa Day takes place Sunday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the location to be announced soon. (Watch the BGA Yahoo digest, Web site and FaceBook page for updates.)

For just \$15, treat your dog to a gentle coat brushing, soothing bubble bath, towel dry, nail clipping, ear cleaning, bandanna and a delicious treat.

To volunteer or make an appointment, contact Gail at 634-9686 or [tbvaughan@roadrunner.com](mailto:tbvaughan@roadrunner.com).



# Loving Families Needed To Foster Greyhounds

by Gail Riggs

One of the most important things that we do as a greyhound adoption group is fostering. We're looking for loving families and individuals to foster retired racing greyhounds and prepare them for life in their forever homes.

Greyhounds are quiet, clean, affectionate and eager to please. Each one deserves a chance at adoption. Would you open your hear and home to a foster greyhound? This is the perfect job for anyone who loves dogs and understands the responsibilities of pet care.

For dogs that need to go to a foster home, we check them over and place them in a foster home until we find a permanent home for them. When we bring in greyhounds off the track, it is important that they begin to understand that they have a new life. It is the job of our foster parents to show our retired greyhounds how to be pets. During their time in a foster home, it also is the job of foster parents to watch the behavior of their greyhound to help us understand what kind of house he or she will fit into.

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption will provide all pre-approved medical care and support for you while a dog is in your home. BGA also will provide you with a crate, collar and leash, dog food and a muzzle.

The foster family's input is very valuable in deciding whether the foster hound is the right choice for prospective adopters. If your situation does not allow for adoption of a greyhound at this time in your life, please consider fostering instead.

We will be hosting a fostering seminar in the very near future. If you've ever considered fostering or haven't fostered in a while, please attend. We can only bring in as many greyhounds as we have foster families.

If you are interested in attending a BGA fostering seminar, call Sue at 655-0819.

## Shop Til You Drop to Benefit BGA ...

For end-of-summer and back-to-school deals, visit Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's Cheektowaga Garage Sale on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 12 Lucy Lane. Donations are needed! To help, contact Carolyn at 681-7928. *Please note:* Clothes, stuffed animals and electronics cannot be accepted.

BGA will participate in Bon Ton's Community Days at the store's Southgate Plaza location in West Seneca. Selling Days are Saturday, Oct. 1 from noon to 2 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 29 from noon to 2 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. Community Days are Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12. Coupon books cost \$5. For more information, call Jan at 866-1543.

On Sunday, Dec. 4, BGA will hold a Fashion Jewelry Party from noon to 3 p.m. at Warehouse Accessorized in the Marshalls/Tops Plaza at Main Street and Transit Road, Williamsville. BGA will earn 15 percent of all proceeds. For more information, call Gail at 634-9686.

## *Farewell My Friend ...*

Chino  
"Kiowa Vat Vod"  
Chapman

Dougie  
"Douglaston" Cotton

Bridgett  
"Bridge Morriston"  
Fillinger

Sirius  
"Where's Sirius"  
Gullo

Sugar  
"LC's Sugar Cane"  
Hammond

Saint  
"Hopkinton Saint"  
Murzynski

Maria  
"Asti Mucha" Nash

Monty  
"Drydor" Pagano

Reggie  
"Call My Challenge"  
Peterson

Rosie  
"Truth Be Told"  
Szczebankiewicz

Olivia  
"Frank's Delivery"  
Tobias

Fern  
"Russian Fern" Yager

AJ "AlJo Enuf  
Stuff" Jankowski

# A Tribute to Saint

By Karen Veltri

Sam and I called her Saint, not because of any angelic behavior, but because she looked like a Saint Bernard pup when she was born. (If you've never seen a greyhound puppy, they look like any other puppy at first: fat bellies, short legs and rounded muzzles. They start to get their greyhound muzzles at about two to three months old.)

The irony of her nickname is that Saint was far from pious; she would become known at the race-track kennel as "Saint I Ain't." From the time she was old enough to walk, it was next to impossible to clip her nails. She would scream like she was being tortured for the entire process, which involved me pinning her on the ground with my whole body as I wrestled with each nail. I often wondered what the neighborhood through we were doing and always expected the ASPCA or a National Greyhound Association inspector to show up asking questions. Luckily, our neighbors knew how much we loved our dogs, so the authorities were never called!

Her racing career was short lived and uneventful. Her true calling came when she returned to our farm. All the male dogs loved Saint. They would follow her around wherever she went. We used this to our advantage when Bill, a friend, neighbor and fellow greyhound breeder in Massachusetts, had

a male dog named SHK Meatloaf, who showed no interest in racing or training to be a racer. He would not chase the mechanical lure or run around the training track, despite great racing bloodlines.

As a last resort, Bill sent Meatloaf to our farm to see if we could get him interested in racing. We quickly realized that Meatloaf had fallen under Saint's spell; he followed her around like a love-struck teenager. We started training Meatloaf by taking both him and Saint to the training track and allowing Saint to run ahead while Meatloaf ran after her. He finally got the hang of it and went on to be one of the best dogs to race at Lincoln Greyhound Park, winning many Grade AA stakes and championship races.

Saint was one of the best mothers we ever had. We bred her to one of our boys, Guy, and she had eight pups. Two of them, Shy and Pal, eventually made their way to BGA for adoption, while the other six were adopted in Massachusetts. Saint is the only mom we had that would eat her own meals, then return to her pups and regurgitate so her pups could eat. This is something she would repeat years later to help feed her sister Lickorice, who was too sick to stand at her own food bowl.

Saint and Lickorice were lucky enough to make their way to the Murzynski household after being abandoned by their first adoptive homes in the Buffalo area. It does not surprise me that Saint lived to 15 years, 10 months of age – a record for our Veltri greyhounds. Her longevity is a testament to the commitment of Sue and Dick Murzynski, who went above and beyond the call of duty for both Lickorice and Saint. They gave them both wonderful lives. I know these girls enriched the Murzynski family's lives in return. My heartfelt thanks to Sue and Dick for loving and caring for Saint and Lickorice. I will be forever grateful.

I know Saint is now living up to her nickname in heaven with the rest of the Veltri greyhounds, where the boys are still chasing her and Saint Peter is having trouble clipping her nails.



*Saint and her littermates. Greyhounds do not develop their distinctive muzzles till they are two or three months old.*

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 1096  
 Cheektowaga, NY 14225  
 716-873-1165  
[info@b-g-a.org](mailto:info@b-g-a.org)  
[www.b-g-a.org](http://www.b-g-a.org)

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### ***Join the "Yes We CAN" Challenge***

Now through Friday, Sept. 30, you can help save the environment and benefit Buffalo Greyhound Adoption at the same time, by collecting your for-deposit cans and bottles, returning them, and sending the money you earn to BGA. Whoever donates the largest amount will win a \$50 gift card, with prizes also awarded to those who finish second through sixth. Ask your friend and relatives to participate, too! For more information, contact Karen at [karengall5@msn.com](mailto:karengall5@msn.com) or Irene at [iwood14@hotmail.com](mailto:iwood14@hotmail.com). Or, call 675-1237 after 6:30 p.m.

### ***Lottery Ticket Sales Going Strong ... BGA Needs You!***

Tickets will go on sale in August for September 2011 daily lottery drawings to benefit Buffalo Greyhound Adoption. The cost of each ticket is \$5. If you would like to buy – or sell – tickets, contact Dave Heckmiller at [theheckmillers@aol.com](mailto:theheckmillers@aol.com).

BGA's May lottery earned \$1,265 for the hounds! This was BGA's most successful lottery ever. Special thanks to Dave Heckmiller, who continues to organize and run lottery ticket sales.

The lottery and other BGA fund-raising events and activities are in need of volunteers. If you're willing to work on a fund raiser, contact Gail Vaughan at [tbvaughan@roadrunner.com](mailto:tbvaughan@roadrunner.com). If you're willing to work on a community event, contact Mary Schreiner at [chemms@mac.com](mailto:chemms@mac.com).

Volunteering, even if only for an hour or two, can truly make a difference in the life of a greyhound. Thank you for considering being a BGA volunteer!