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# Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption

Established 1991

## Summer 2012

*In this issue:*

**Upcoming Calendar of Events and Scenes from Recent BGA Happenings ... A Happy Ending and A Grey "Looking For My Forever Home"**

*From The President:*

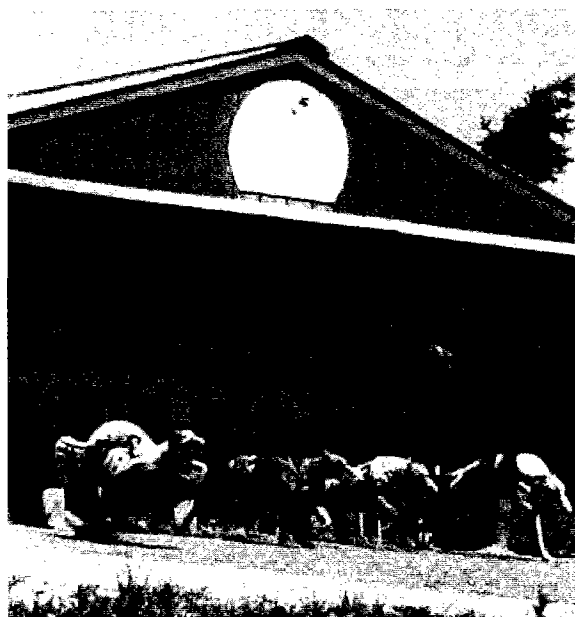
### A Trip to the Greyhound Track

I've been the "parent" of at least one greyhound since 1999. I've fostered and placed dozens of dogs, and I've been on the BGA Board of Directors for 4 ½ years, but until recently, I had never seen a greyhound race. I wasn't even sure I wanted to ...

But this summer, I joined a small group of BGA volunteers and we headed down to the GPA Kennel at Wheeling Island, West Virginia, to pick up some recently-retired greyhounds and bring them home for adoption.

After a 4 ½ hour drive from Buffalo, we arrived in Wheeling on a 90 degree Sunday afternoon, shortly before the 2 p.m. post time for the day's first race. Since we had to make a return trip the same day, we didn't have much time to spend in Wheeling, but we did watch as the dogs were weighed in for their "maiden race" and as they were paraded to the starting gate.

The dogs were young – 18 and 19-month-old puppies who had never won a race. A cute little brindle girl running on the outside in Lane 8 caught my eye as she repeatedly peeked around the gate at us. And although she lost the race, she won my heart.



*Greyhounds leave the starting gate at the track at Wheeling Island, West Virginia.*

There are differing opinions on greyhound racing ... but these elegant, athletic animals in action are truly a beautiful sight. My experience at the track renewed my admiration, respect and appreciation for the ability these dogs have.

After the race, we went on to the kennel, where five dogs had already been selected for us - and where we also decided to take along a sixth as well. The

*(cont'd on p. 2)*

## **A Happy Ending (cont'd from p. 5)**

to find forever homes.

Kirk has been with us for six months now, and he quickly filled the hole in our hearts left by Star. Kirk is an incredibly sweet, handsome, loyal and loving boy. Yes, his left eye is gone and he has an indentation where the eye once was, but he is otherwise a normal three-year old. He has a gorgeous, black silky coat that shines in the light. He charms everyone he meets, particularly women, with his warm hugs.

Kirk is extremely happy, and he loves his toys, bones and nightly walks. You can see in his face how grateful he is to have found a forever home, where he is loved and accepted and no longer living most of his hours in a crate. I can only imagine how he felt each time he was passed over by potential adopters who thought he just wasn't "pretty" enough. Kirk is beautiful inside and out and most certainly deserved a forever home.

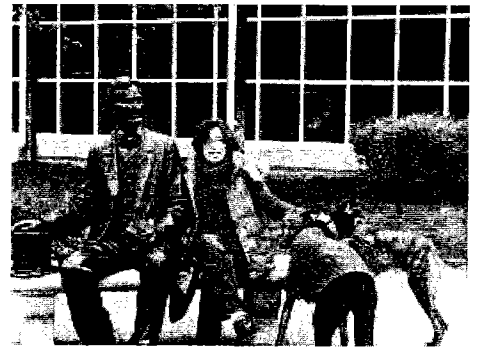
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We are so grateful to Sue and Debbie for bringing Kirk into our lives. We are also grateful to Marylou at the adoption kennel for giving Kirk such tremendous care. She had grown quite attached to him because of his length of time at the track, and he settled into home life very easily because of the love she gave him.

Anyone who has lost a grey can relate to the feeling of uncertainty as to whether you have room in your heart for another. However, it doesn't take long to find that your heart is not only big enough for another, but your precious angels will always be with you. It certainly didn't take long for Kirk and Gabby to steal our hearts.

## **Greyhounds In Gettysburg**



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*BGA raffle prizes were on display at the June 29 party for new adopters.*

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Raffle tickets are priced at one for \$2 or three for \$5. Purchase yours at any upcoming BGA event or by contacting Sue, 655-0819. Drawings will take place at the Annual Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 23. (Winners need not be present.)

# Kirk's Story: A Happy Ending

## Meet Kirk

by Susan Ronald

In May, 2011, Jan Lingle and I arrived at Wheeling Island Racetrack in Wheeling, WV to transport a few greyhounds back to Buffalo. While we were visiting the GPA (Greyhound Pets of America) Adoption Kennel, we noticed a greyhound that had undergone surgery on his left eye. I inquired about his situation.

## Welcome To the Pack

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



Comet Bates  
Harley Boyle  
Zig Burtis  
Ren Cialone  
Auggie Cleaver  
Sadie Dixon  
Dozer Durante  
Becca Englert  
Bessie Gott  
Kenzie Greig  
Rummy Jones  
Ollie Lingle  
Jojo Mattingly  
Coffee Bean Murzynski  
Sunshine Pitz  
Princess Kate Pratt  
Zeus Prince  
Holly Scharmach  
Morgan Thomas  
Jaxson Thomas

Marylou Metz, adoption kennel coordinator, informed us that Kirk (Kiowa Kirk) had required surgery to remove an abscess on his left eye. Since Kirk was already blind in that eye, the veterinarian removed the eye along with the abscess.

I asked Marylou what Kirk's chances were of being adopted. She replied that his chances were very slim since he was a black male, not cat safe, and had only one eye. We concluded our business at the kennel and returned to Buffalo with a few more candidates for adoption.

When we arrived back in Buffalo, Jan and I mentioned the one-eyed greyhound to Sue Murzynski, BGA adoption chair, and Debbie Doxey, BGA president, who both expressed concern for Kirk.

Last August, Julie Maciejewski, BGA communications cochair, and I traveled to GPA to procure a few more greyhounds for adoption. As I walked into the kennel, the one-eyed greyhound watched me as I discussed the latest candidates with Julie and Marylou. I finally approached Kirk at his crate and spoke to him in a gentle manner. I asked Marylou more about his background and requested permission to take photos of him to show Sue and Debbie.

Julie and I arrived back in Buffalo and discussed Kirk's situation with Sue and Debbie. Was there anything we could do to help this greyhound? According to Marylou, Kirk was a normal greyhound, who loved to play with other dogs, and was quite affectionate.

*(cont'd on p. 5)*

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## Looking for My Forever Home: Jackson (Gable Adidas)

What a great boy! Jackson loves to give "hugs," go on walks and can't wait to jump in the car for ride.

After a long and winning career on the track, Jackson enjoyed the life of a retired runner. He adapted very well to home life. He is a loving and devoted companion who loves to be with other greyhounds and people. He likes his routine; he wakes early for breakfast and will let you know when it's dinner time!

At 10:30 he will leave the family and go to bed, with a look that says "come on folks we have to get up early tomorrow!"



Jackson will do best in a home without small children. For more information on adopting Jackson or another greyhound, please contact Sue Murzynski, [suehappytails@aol.com](mailto:suehappytails@aol.com) or 655-0819.

# So Many Ways to Support BGA

*Please mark your calendar and support these upcoming Buffalo Greyhound Adoption events:*

Friday, Aug. 3 - Sunday, Aug. 5  
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Annual Garage Sale

244 Towers Blvd.  
Cheektowaga, NY

Regular sales on Aug. 3rd and 4th. Bag sale on Aug. 5th. Donated items (no clothing, stuffed animals or electronics, please) may be dropped off in the Hamburg, Cheektowaga or Amherst areas, or a pick-up can be arranged.

*Please contact Carolyn, 681-7928 or Glory, 656-5015 to donate items or volunteer.*

Wednesday, Aug. 8 –  
Sunday, Aug. 19

## 173rd Erie County Fair

5600 McKinley Parkway  
Hamburg, NY

BGA will have an information booth in the Bazaar Building. Volunteers – human and hound – are needed to cover three shifts a day for 10 days!  
*To volunteer, please contact Jan, jan161957@aol.com.*

Sunday, Aug. 26  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## Dog Days of Summer

Denny's Restaurant  
4445 Main St. @ Harlem Rd.  
Amherst, NY

Denny's in Western and Central New York, along with various SPCA's, animal



shelters and humane societies, are partnering to raise awareness of sheltered, adoptable animals and to raise funds for their everyday expenses. Participating Denny's Restaurants donate 10 percent of sales to the participating organization at each location. BGA will be the recipient of proceeds at 4445 Main Street. Human and hound volunteers are needed for BGA's Meet & Greet booth.  
*Please contact Carolyn, 681-7928.*

Saturday, Sept. 15  
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## Meet & Greet:

### Clarence Hollow Farmers Market

10717 Main St. (between Salt & Ransom Rds. – 5.8 miles east of Transit Rd.)  
Clarence, NY  
*To volunteer, please contact Debbie, 836-3426.*



Sunday, Sept. 23

*Location and details are being finalized.*

## Annual Picnic

Bring your own beverages and a dish to pass. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Hounds and well-behaved, greyhound-friendly canine siblings are welcome.  
*For further details, check the BGA Web site, Yahoo digest and/or Face Book.*

Saturday, Oct. 20  
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## Meet & Greet

### Williamsville Farmers Market

Main & Spring Sts.  
Williamsville, NY

You and your hound are free to shop and wander the market while not at the BGA tent.  
*To volunteer, please contact Debbie, 836-3426.*

Sunday, Oct. 28  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Bubble Bath

Camp Bow Wow  
231 Grand Island Blvd.  
(End of Sheridan - near I-190 @ Kenmore Ave.)  
Tonawanda, NY

Bring your dog for a bubble bath, nail clipping, ear cleaning, free bandanna and a treat. \$15.  
*To volunteer or make an appointment, please contact Sue, suehappytails@aol.com or 655-0819.*

Friday, Nov. 2

## Meat Raffle

*Please watch for more information in the Fall 2012 newsletter and on the BGA Web site, Yahoo digest and/or FaceBook.*

*(cont'd on p. 5)*



**Support BGA**  
**(cont'd from p. 4)**

**ONGOING**  
**MEET & GREETS**

**First Saturday of the Month**  
12 – 4 p.m.

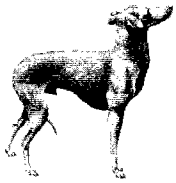
**McKinley Mall**

Blasdell, NY

Use the Food Court entrance.

BGA is located on the Barnes & Noble corridor.

To volunteer, please contact  
Jan, jan161957@aol.com.



**Second**  
**Saturday of the**  
**Month**

12 – 2 p.m.

**Pet Supplies**  
**Plus**

Niagara Falls Blvd.

Tonawanda, NY

To volunteer, please contact  
Kathy, tarashorty@yahoo.com.

**Third Saturday of the Month**  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Tractor Supply**

4484 Southwestern Blvd.

Hamburg, NY

To volunteer, please contact  
Jan, jan161957@aol.com.

**Fourth (and Fifth)**  
**Saturday of the Month**  
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Walden Galleria**

Cheektowaga, NY

Enter on the lower level next to Lord & Taylor. BGA is located in front of Le Gourmet Chef.

To volunteer, please contact  
Debbie, 836-3426.

**A Happy Ending (cont'd from p. 3)**

Over the next couple of months, we discussed how to handle this situation. Since Kirk was not a part of our greyhound family, there was little we could do on our end, except possibly finding a long-term foster home or a family that would be interested

**A New Beginning**

by Nancy Hammond

Paul and I had just lost our beloved boy Chariot Star at age 14½ after Star spent several years battling spinal stenosis. It was August 24, 2011, and the end of a very difficult year in which we also lost our two wonderful girls, Potsy and Sugar, both also at 14 ½.

When Sugar crossed the bridge unexpectedly in June, we knew Star didn't have much time left with us. We wanted him to have a companion, so in July we adopted Gabby (Finally Free), a beautiful, two-year old, sassy brindle girl. Despite their age difference and their short time together, Gabby became very attached to Star. She was respectful of him and watched over him at all times.

When Star crossed the bridge, Gabby was devastated and became a different dog. The confident girl we adopted became extremely dependent on us, and she cried so loudly when we left her alone that we could hear her for blocks. As much as we were still grieving over Star, we knew

Gabby needed another playmate, so in mid September, we submitted an application for a boy.

We waited like nervous parents for news. What would our new boy look like? What type of personality would he have? How old would he be? Would he and Gabby bond? We were so excited when we received an e-mail from Sue about available males.

But wait, this wasn't your typical e-mail. It started out something like, "there's absolutely no pressure, but I wanted to tell you about this boy...."



A few sentences later, we were near tears hearing Kirk's story and how long he had been at the kennel (a search of his racing history logged his last race in December 2010 and here it was nine months later!). Sue had sent us the photos of Kirk, but we didn't even need to see them. Paul immediately said, "We have to adopt him."

A few weeks later, Paul accompanied Susan to Wheeling to start Kirk (and two other lucky greys, Mary Am and Rory) on their journey (cont'd on p. 7)

# Farewell My Friend ...

*Zola*  
Extreme Joy  
*Barker*

*Lucy*  
D's Blackberry  
*Bobo*

*Tiger*  
JD's Retirement  
*Bates*

*Reesie*  
GB's Alana  
*Besch*

*Ty*  
G's Typhoon  
*Best*

*Rudy*  
Rudolpho Garcia  
*Cialone*

*Cari Elizabeth*  
BB's Mrs. Caring  
*Claycomb*

*Cedric (aka Brusco)*  
Dave Samsulujean  
*Doxey,*

*Gracie*  
Greyhound Housemate to Heidie  
*Faust*

*Pete*  
Power Pete  
*Janek*

*Tootsie*  
Speakeasy  
*Laviguer*

*Addie*  
Adesina  
*Liberatore*

*Fletcher*  
LC's Loose Rope  
*Mankowski*

*Jordan*  
Prima Jordan  
*Mekarski*

*Keeper*  
LJ's Finderskeeper  
*Olmstead*

*Stormy*  
Boc's Stormy  
*Pillard*

*Chablis*  
Chablis  
*Pruzman*

*Maury*  
Coldwater Moose  
*Pufal*

*Lucky*  
Hallo for Luck  
*Rudnicki*

*Peachy*  
N's Peach Dee  
*Szczepanski*

*Ink*  
Daytona Draft  
*Thauer*

*Sally*  
VS Sailing Sally  
*Woods*

*Eltex*  
Eltex Getting By  
*Zelechowski*

*Holly*  
Holly Hastyw  
*Zgoda*

*Teddy*  
Mohican Teddy  
*Zgoda*

*Telly*  
Tellmeitsnotso  
*Zgoda*

*"The one best place to bury a dog is  
in the heart of its master."*

- Ben Hur Lampman

**Lost Dog Pager: 888-615-7340**

**Please take a moment to save the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption Lost Dog  
Pager number on your phone.**

**Enter your phone number followed by the # sign.**

**Remember: Never hesitate to call.**

**BGA will immediately dispatch a search team to help you out.**

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## 2012 Greyhound Expo is a Success

*The 2012 Greyhound Fair & Expo took place April 22 at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg. Along with representatives from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, participants from a number of other organizations and vendors took part in the fun. Pictured below at left are Veronica Gnu and Sue Mattingly selling limited-edition 2012 BGA shirts. At right, the BGA informational table stayed busy throughout the day. Thanks to all who volunteered and participated!*

