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Winter 2012

Off Track Pets  
News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption - Established 1991

### From The President:

## Consider Adopting a "ShyHound"

With winter finally arriving in Western New York, I hope all of you and your families (human, canine, feline and otherwise) are finding ways to stay warm and dry. And I hope you all had a very happy holiday season!

We had a happy Christmas with family and friends at the Doxey household. Along with the other dogs and cats, my two-year old brindle, Padre, seemed to enjoy his first Christmas in a real home, and I'm happy to say that, despite being just two, he never once touched any of the Christmas trees.

Even more important, Padre was really quite social when guests came to visit and when I took him to visit family. For many greys, socializing is second nature and a lot of fun, but Padre hasn't always been one of those hounds. He is, by nature, very shy, and seeing him warm up to strangers and enjoy the holidays was very heartwarming.

Padre came to me last spring as a foster. We always try not to "label" new dogs as "shy" or "spooky," yet there is an occasional newcomer who is very timid around people - particularly men and young children. It might be that they were mistreated, but not always. Sometimes it's just their temperament. Very shy dogs can be a challenge to place in homes. It can take days for them to establish enough trust to take a treat from their owners' or foster parents' hands, and much longer for them to feel safe among strangers. (Padre, for example, wouldn't come in for two hours on a cold day last March because scary men were here installing my home theatre system ...) Shy dogs need extra work and patience before their inner sweetness begins to emerge. Some might even become aggressive when they feel threatened. More likely, they will flee or freeze.

It takes a particular kind of "parent" to work with a shy dog, but having now adopted two, I can say that there is nothing much more rewarding than watching them emerge from their shells. Padre is not yet ready for a Meet & Greet, nor even to take a treat from the hand of some men (unless it's real meat!) but he has come a long way from the young foster who cowered away from even the safe and loving people at his first vet appointment. He is now a fun and silly two-year old, who follows me everywhere, gives kisses, greets visitors at the door and is much more brave than his outgoing older siblings on slippery floors and stairs.

So, I encourage those with the time and patience to consider making room in their lives for a "shy" greyhound. He or she can blossom into a sweet, devoted and really quite fun companion - and I think deep inside, will be forever greyful.

My best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy 2012!

- Debbie Doxey

# Welcome

## New BGA Board Members

*Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA) starts the New Year with some new faces on its Board of Directors. Christine Cotton is vice president, Vince Moore joins the board as secretary, Lisa Greig is BGA's new Events Chair, and the communications function is shared by Mike and Julie Maciejewski.*

*We asked each new board member to supply some background information about themselves so we could get to know them better. BGA is proud to introduce:*

### **Vice President Christine Cotton**

I have been a member of BGA since 2004 when my life changed for the better. My daughter Caitlin and I adopted Pa's Eskimo Pie Memorial Day weekend of that year and from then on we have both have been part of the BGA family. Of course, being a greyhound owner, I couldn't have just one, so exactly a year later we adopted Douglaston, also known as my angel, Dougie.

I started volunteering at Bubble Baths and got to know a lot of people who eventually became very good and close friends. Caity and I started going to Meet & Greets and we loved talking to the public about how wonderful and loving this breed is. I have been a member of the fund raising committee for the last four years and in this capacity, have chaired meat raffles to benefit BGA. I started doing home visits and placements about two years ago, which led to helping with transporting dogs to Buffalo.

The one task that I have failed at is fostering. I fostered a seven-year-old return about the time my Dougie was getting sick and all three dogs got along from Day One, but Dougie and Anubis "clicked" and stayed together all the time. I know in my heart that Anubis was sent to me as a gift and it was meant to be - and now Anubis is an official member of the family.

### **Communication Co Chairs Mike & Julie Maciejewski**

Mike worked at the power plant in Barker for 27 years and Julie is an administrative assistant for a commercial property appraiser. Our older son and his family live in Fredricksburg, Virginia and our younger son is in the U.S. Navy, stationed in Virginia Beach. Kandi (My Retail Girl) joined our family in Nov. 2007. She and our shepherd mix, Sasha, quickly became fast friends and are now pretty inseparable. We love seeing her run laps in our backyard while Sasha sits on the deck barking at her!

Two years ago, we began fostering and enjoy our "rotating third dog." We have fun getting to know each dog and helping them settle into retirement. We believe that communication is important for our organization, both among members and to let others know about us. We are still trying to figure out how best to represent BGA and welcome suggestions. You can find BGA on FaceBook (there is a page and a group), Twitter (@Bflo-Greyhound) and on the web (www.b-g-a.org).

(cont'd on p. 3)

## **BGA Board of Directors**

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## Welcome New Board Members (cont'd from p. 2)

### Events Chair Lisa Greig

I adopted my first greyhound, Angus, in October 2010. He has been such an amazing gift. Together we started to do Meet & Greets at the Galleria and McKinley Mall and various events. I love doing Meet & Greets because it gives you such a great chance to interact with the public and promote greyhound adoption. I just fell in love with this breed so we decided to adopt a sister for Angus. We adopted Gwyn in July of 2011.

### Secretary Vince Moore

My wife Michelle and I have been involved with BGA since November 1997, when we adopted our first greyhound, Heather. A year later we adopted Kobay.

For the past 14 years, I've been a foster parent (we failed and adopted our third, Belle), been a booth captain, participated on the fundraising committee and conducted numerous home visits. I've also had the pleasure of serving on the Membership and Anniversary Committees during that time.

I am employed as a paralegal working in the Land, Environment and Energy Practice Group at Phillips Lytle, LLP.

My life has been drastically changed forever by the loyalty and unlimited love of our dogs. We have made so many memories traveling with our dogs to Dewey Beach and meeting new people at Meet & Greets. I wish to share those experiences and hopefully encourage others to share that same love.



*Both Kitty and Danny Armitage were adopted in 2011 and enjoyed their first holiday seasons in their new "forever home."*

With eye upraised his master's look to  
scan,  
The joy, the solace, and  
the aid of man:

The rich man's guardian and the poor  
man's friend,

The only creature faithful to the end.

--George Crabbe.

## WELCOME TO THE PACK

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

**Kitty Armitage**

**Blaze Buckenroth**

**Cassie Cascio**

**Buddy Chapman-Russell**

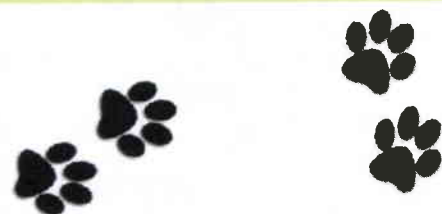
**Schatzie Claycomb**

**Cottie Duviviers**

**Kiowa Francis**

**Rory Hamerski**

**Dylan Major**





## So Many Ways to Support BGA ... Would You Like to Get Involved?

If you'd like to get involved in supporting Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA) - and get to know fellow hound lovers and make some great new friends - your time, talents and skills are needed to help keep BGA strong.

The BGA lottery and other fund-raising activities help keep adoption costs low and further our mission of placing dogs in their "forever homes." Please consider volunteering for an event. Even a few hours of your time can truly make a difference in the life of a greyhound!

To learn more about BGA volunteer opportunities, contact President Debbie Doxey at 836-3426 or [Debdoxey@verizon.net](mailto:Debdoxey@verizon.net).

Here are some ongoing and upcoming activities and events to support BGA:



**Buffalo Greyhound Adoption  
Greyhound Bubble Bath  
Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 - 3:00  
at Camp Bow Wow  
231 Grand Island Blvd., Tonawanda  
(end of Sheridan Dr. near I-190 at Kenmore Ave.)**

\$15 donation gets your greyhound a bath, brush out, ear cleaning, nails clipped and a bandana.

Also, for dental health month, each dog will receive a toothbrush!

To volunteer or make an appointment, contact Sue at 655-0819 or [Suehappytails@aol.com](mailto:Suehappytails@aol.com).

### Meet & Greet Greyhounds

BGA holds monthly Meet & Greets for potential owners to get to know the world's "greytest" pets. These events take place on the first Saturday of every month at McKinley Mall, Hamburg; the second Saturday of every month at Tractor Supply; the third Saturday of every month at Treats Unleashed, and the fourth (and fifth, if applicable) Saturday of every month at Walden Galleria, Cheektowaga.

For more information or to volunteer at a Meet & Greet, contact Events Chair Lisa Greig at 861-4952 or [lisa790@roadrunner.com](mailto:lisa790@roadrunner.com).

### Lottery Ticket Sales

Tickets will go on sale in April for May 2012 daily drawings. The cost of each ticket is \$5. If you would like to purchase or sell tickets, contact Dave at [theheckmillers@aol.com](mailto:theheckmillers@aol.com). Please make a commitment to either purchase tickets or sell five of them to benefit BGA. *(cont'd on p. 5)*

## Farewell My Friend

Gina  
"Prima Garlitz"  
Annibale

Bachus  
"N's Bongo Benji"  
Domenech

Calvin  
Dunham

Anubis  
"Pool Boys"  
Francis

Sammy  
"Authier"  
Jankowski

Johnson  
"RK Onereelemen"  
Kluck

Belle  
"Nitro Trouble"  
Moore

*(cont'd on p. 6)*

## Cheektowaga Garage Sale

Mark your calendar now for the third annual BGA Cheektowaga Garage Sale on Sunday, Sept. 9. Watch for more information as the date draws closer, and start saving any items you may want to donate, as you tackle that New Year's resolution to get more organized!

## Niagara Candy Sales

Unless you're new to Western New York, you're probably familiar with Niagara Candy bars. For just \$1 each, you can purchase mouth-watering candy bars in a variety of flavors including milk and dark chocolate, mint, peanut butter, almond and more. And BGA receives 50 percent of all sale proceeds.

If you'd like to purchase or sell Niagara Candy bars, contact Jan at 866-1543.

## Get Your Free Issue of *Celebrating Greyhounds*

If you or someone you know has adopted a senior (age 7 or older) or special medical needs greyhound, that person is eligible for a free copy of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. They simply need to email the editor at [editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org](mailto:editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org) with this information: a description of their dog's age and/or special need, the name of their adoption group, and the adopter's name and mailing address.

*Celebrating Greyhound's* purpose is to provide information about greyhounds as a breed. For more information, go to [www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/magazine](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/magazine). Annual subscriptions are priced at \$25 for four (quarterly) issues.

### Waiting for His Forever Home

# "He Fit Right In With Our Family"

By Glory Kluck

I still remember what we requested when our family first met BGA in 1997 and adopted our first "greyhound," Pax: Our wish was for "*the youngest and lightest-colored dog in the load.*" And we got Pax, our beautiful, just-turning-three-year-old light brindle.



Glory Kluck and Zeus

Fast forward to 2007 and our second turn at fostering, which brought us our beloved Johnny - a 7-1/2 year old black hound! He was the best! We learned so much about the special joys of adopting a senior dog. Many have been in family homes for quite some time, so they readjust rather quickly and easily. Their maturity is quite a contrast to our younger hounds. Without taking away anything from the younger dogs, our older "greys" are much easier dogs to have around (in my humble opinion!) They are calm and laid back ladies and gentlemen.

Of course, there are adjustments to be made as your dog ages, but many are minor....walks can be shortened and/or slowed down, you may need to give a boost for getting into the car, a little more guidance or support on stairs, etc. ... all minor adjustments which your dog will help you figure out. Our time with our Johnny was, as with every pet, much too short. We only had him for four and a half years, but I would not trade those joyful, loving years for anything. Our time was short but oh, so sweet. This dog brought our family love, contentment, joy, comfort and laughter. He was my precious

(cont'd on p. 8)

# Buffalo Greyhound Adoption

is proud to present the

## 2012 GREYHOUND FAIR & EXPO



**Sunday, April 22, 2012**  
**11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**FREE ADMISSION!!**



**Grange Building at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg**  
**5600 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg NY 14075**

**Come and join the fun!**

**Bring your family, friends, greyhounds and other leashed pets. Many vendors (several new) and non-profit organizations will be present. Great shopping for humans and hounds alike. Representatives from Buffalo Greyhound will be available to answer questions relating to adoptions, fundraising, fostering, communications and events.**



**You can help by donating:**

**Auction Items**

**Desserts or Snacks**

**Your Time: Volunteer to help staff the Expo!**

***If you can help, please contact  
Christine Cotton at [cgcotton@yahoo.com](mailto:cgcotton@yahoo.com)***

**SEE YOU THERE!**

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

Please take a moment to save the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA) Lost Dog pager number on your phone. And remember, never hesitate to call the number if your dog is lost. BGA will immediately dispatch a search team to help you out.

Farewell  
My Friend  
(cont'd from p. 4)

Kyndra  
"Gable Kyndra"  
Roberts

Carmel  
"Superior Evening"  
Saeman

Zacy  
"JNP Zac Attack"  
Schifferle

Ringor  
"Master Ringor"  
Slick

Leona  
"Leona"  
Vincent

Brandy  
"Hallo Alphabet"  
Volger



## Make Sure Your Greyhound's Collar is Safe



by Ellie Goldstein

Please don't assume that putting a safety collar on your greyhound automatically makes your dog safe from escape. Any collar, regardless of style, is only as good as its adjustment.

Consider the design of the safety collar (also referred to as humane choke or a martingale choke). It's a two piece collar — a solid loop to which you attach the leash and an adjustable choke to which the closed martingale loop attaches through two metal rectangular pieces.

Simply stated, if you adjust the collar by fitting it up high on your greyhound's neck (behind his ears) and the two metal rectangles readily touch, you're very apt to lose your shy dog in the next parade! The photo on the right shows Nikki's collar improperly adjusted.

To fit properly, the metal pieces must be closer to an inch apart when you've pulled really tightly on that martingale loop. The photo on the left illustrates Nikki's properly-adjusted collar. Check the collar fit from time to time. They do stretch over

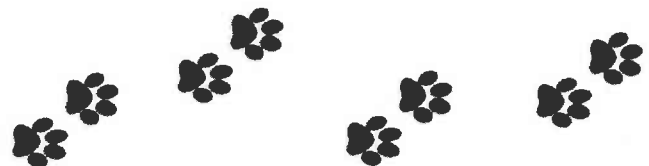


time and need to be re-fitted.

Remember: Greyhounds jump backwards when they're frightened. Pull down on the leash for extra insurance if you see your dog getting frightened. They can back right out of an incorrectly adjusted collar and you will be left holding a leash with no dog attached if you don't pull down on the leash.

A final to do: Attach your dog's tags on any place other than the large D-ring. The D-ring is meant for the leash snap only. Tags attached to the D-ring can catch on hooks, knobs, and the like and have been known to cause strangulation. We strongly urge using a non-Martingale collar for tags; save the Martingale collars for leash walks only. The tag loop can get caught on knobs, crates, fences and other objects even if no tags are on the loop.

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## **Waiting for His Forever Home (cont'd from p. 5)**

companion and friend.

Just this past Christmas season, we met another wonderful "senior," a beautiful 9 1/2 year old year old champagne male who we are fostering.

"Mr. Z" is a return dog who fit right in with our family in an amazing way. He is good in the car, laying down after a few minutes and enjoying the ride. We can leave him uncrated when we go out. He loves his walks, even in this cold weather - prancing and playful - more interested in "sniffing" at every tree or bush than in doing his "thing."

Our foster dog is so very affectionate and loving....we spent a lot of time petting and cuddling (and lowering our blood pressure!) He loves treats and has quickly learned that when someone is standing by a certain kitchen cupboard, he might get something. He'll be right there, but never begs or becomes rough or demanding. He is very gentle in taking a treat from your hand. Even on a visit to Pet Supplies, he was right there next to the open bins of bulk dog treats but never stole a thing! How proud I was of him, even though he's not my dog.

Anyone who adopts "Mr. Z" will find themselves blessed with a loving, grateful companion. And the quality of the time you have together will be priceless.

Would you like to meet  
 "Mr. Z" or learn more  
 about adopting him or an-  
 other greyhound in need  
 of a forever home? Contact  
 BGA Adoptions Chair Sue  
 Murzynski at 655-0819 or  
 suehappytails@aol.com.