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# Off Track Pets

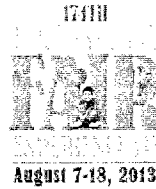
News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption  
Established 1991

## Fall 2013

*In this issue:*

BGA Picnic Coming Up on September 22 ...  
Special Thanks to our Volunteers for Making  
This Summer's Events Greyt!

## BGA Booth is a Crowd Pleaser At Erie County Fair



*The Buffalo Adoption Greyhound booth at the Erie County Fair was a popular attraction for pet lovers of all ages. The fair ran Wednesday, Aug. 7 through Sunday, Aug. 18.*



*Each year, funds are raised to support BGA and adoption information is generated to help find dogs' forever homes.*

*Sincere thanks to all the volunteers who made this year's Erie County Fair booth a success!*

## BGA Represented at Black Dog Second Chance Rescue



*From left, volunteers Sara Jones, Julie Maciejewski, Debbie Doxey and Nancy Hammond represent Buffalo Greyhound Adoption at the June 2013 Black Dog Second Chance Rescue Expo at the Harlem Road Community Center, Amherst.*

## BGA Board of Directors

Debbie Doxey  
*President*

Debdoxey@verizon.net  
716-836-3426

Christine Cotton  
*Vice President*  
cotton@yahoo.com  
716-827-8347

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

Vince Moore  
*Secretary*  
Kobay614@yahoo.com  
716-393-3268

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

Carolyn Pillard  
*Fund Raising*  
lpillard@roadrunner.com  
716-681-7928

Mike Maciejewski  
*Communications*  
mrmski@msn.com  
716-517-5588

Julie Maciejewski  
*Events*  
handbellgal@msn.com  
716-417-1648

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



## Dog Days of Summer at Denny's



*A portion of proceeds at Denny's, Main Street, Snyder on Sunday, Aug. 25 went to Buffalo Greyhound Adoption. Above, sisters Hailey, Catie and Kelsey Kraus visited with Bean-  
ie. At right, Betsey also was among the greyhound greeting diners outside the restaurant.*



# Welcome to the Pack!

Welcome to these  
greyhounds, who are  
recent BGA adoptees:

**McKenna  
Baker/Schenk**

**Lenox Bates**

**Sutton Chojnacki**

**Nettie Condrell**

**Gracie Fortunato**

**Otis Haynes**

**Freddie Manders**

**Richie Neff**

**Flare Newman**

**Eagle Ross**

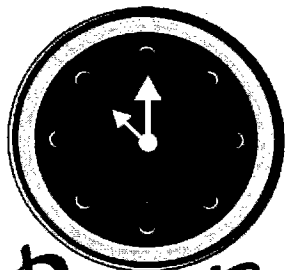
**Blackjack  
Szczepanski**

**Rosie Yager**

**Fly Zimmerman**



*Buffalo Greyhound Adoption continues to welcome new dogs to Western New York. In addition to the recent adoptees listed above, a group of dogs arrived early this summer. Some of them are pictured at the dog wash, which occurs once they reach Buffalo. In the photo on the upper right, BGA volunteers Sue Murzynski, Dave Heckmiller and Donna Szczepanski assist at the event.*



**PicnicTime**

Please bring returnable cans and bottles to the picnic - to benefit Buffalo Greyhound Adoption!?

**Come to BGA's Annual Picnic!**

**Sunday, September 22 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Shelter #5, Como Park, Lancaster

(Boy Scout shelter - same location as last year)

Come for a time of fun, food and getting to know other members of our greyt Buffalo Greyhound Adoption family - human and dog!

We will provide sub sandwiches. Please bring a dessert or side dish to pass and your own beverages (no alcohol, please).

Join us for a walk around the shelter area at noon.

Please RSVP to Jan at 716-866-1543 or jan161957@aol.com so we know how much food to order. We had a greyt time last year - why don't you join us this year?

More information is available on our web site and Face Book Page  
See you there!

## Get to Know Your BGA Board of Directors

# Meet Laurie Graziano

*Buffalo Greyhound Adoption is led by a skilled, dedicated Board of Directors whose members share a common vision and a commitment to helping BGA grow and succeed. In this issue of Off Track Pets, BGA Treasurer Laurie Graziano talks about her very busy life, her greyhound adoption experience ... and gets a word or two in on razzing her in laws ... :)*

We adopted our first greyhound, Mario in 1996. In the past 17 years, we have adopted a total of nine greyhounds through BGA. We decided to adopt through BGA because we had seen them at the Erie County Fair and gotten information. At the time, we were living in an apartment with a strict "no pets" rule, so we had to wait until we bought our first house before we could send in our application. Our landlord was always afraid of a dog biting someone and then suing him. Little did he realize at the time that I am much more likely to bite someone than a greyhound would be!

As soon as we closed on the house, we put in our application and had our home visit. Three weeks later, we welcomed a beautiful red brindle male into our home, whom we named Mario. My in-laws were not happy with this addition to the family. Along came the questions along with the passing along of the unfortunate news to everyone in the family: "You got a dog,

OMG! Why would you want to do that?" "That dog isn't going to be there when we come over, is it?" "You let it sleep in the house?" "Why not have a baby instead?" "You know that dogs are unpredictable and you can never trust them ..."

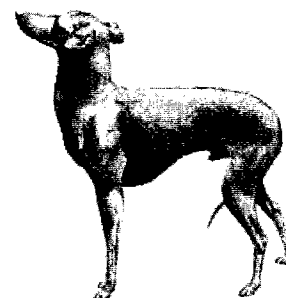
Writing this now gives me a chuckle because sometimes it's just fun to annoy the in-laws. When my mother-in-law found out about us adopting a second greyhound, Kramer, she said, "YOU GOT ANOTHER DOG?" I said "oh no, we got TWO more." As I said, sometimes it's just fun to mess with the in-laws.

Our current greyhounds include Tony, Gina, and Katie. They are all black and sometimes hard to tell apart when one of them has their head inside the garbage can, the toilet or some other forbidden place.

Katie is pretty much your typical greyhound. She spends most of her time lying around just waiting for the next biscuit or walk. Tony and Gina on the other hand, are atypical greyhounds, especially Tony. Apparently no one told these dogs that greyhounds are not high strung and do not bark. It still amazes me that Tony can protest being in the crate by barking for several hours. Thanksgiving at our house with the in-laws is quite a hoot.

We also have three children: David, 9, Michael 5 and Gabriella 3. Yes, wine is a definite staple at our house!

While we've always been involved with BGA, my first appointment to the board was in 2006. I have been treasurer for the last seven years. It's hard to imagine ever not being treasurer. My life is pretty busy with the dogs, kids, work and graduate school. There are always bumps in the road in life and sometimes I just want to hide under the bed. However, I am so glad to be part of BGA's volunteers. I have met many wonderful people through the years and have numerous "crazy greyhound people" friends.



*From the President*

# Thank You Summer Volunteers

The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler and the hounds seem to have a little extra pep in their step. Must be that Fall is coming... And the holiday season not far behind...! But before I break out the firewood and the dogs' warm snugglies, I want to take a moment to thank all the BGA



families and greyhounds who contributed so much this past summer. Summer 2013 was a very

busy and successful season for BGA and we couldn't have done it without so much help from so many of you. (I wish I could name each of you, but it would take too much space and I might miss someone.)

In addition to our regular meet and greets, we ventured out to many new venues this summer, braving sometimes unseasonable cold, unusual heat and the occasional storm! Thanks to Julie Maciejewski, our events coordinator, for diligently pursuing new opportunities to

showcase our greys and educate folks on what wonderful pets retired racers can be. Special thanks to all who came out to help again - or for the first time - at the Erie County Fair, and to Laurie Graziano for organizing the volunteers. This is always a monumental undertaking, but in addition to being one of our biggest opportunities to find potential homes for wonderful greyhounds waiting for their forever homes, it has also become a greyt source for donations from an appreciative public.

Kudos also go out to our fundraising volunteers for helping at many events, including another successful bubble bath, or by selling candy or lottery tickets, donating cans and bottles, or helping at or contributing items for our most successful ever garage sale! Special thanks to Ken and Glory Kluck for giving up their driveway and garage hosting the sale. And to Terry and Gloria Ross for donating the beautiful art deco greyhound print we'll be raffling off at the picnic.

And last, but by no means least, thanks so much to Sue Murzyns-

ki, our adoptions chair, and our home visit reps and transport volunteers for helping the new hounds find their families and their way to Buffalo and to our foster parents for opening their hearts and homes to help the dogs adjust and teach them their off-track manners! We simply could not help all these wonderful retired greyhounds without your generosity.

As I look at my own hounds relaxing tonight, I think of all the greyhounds we've found homes for so far this year and all those other greys who are finishing their racing careers, or who didn't make the cut or who have mothered litters of future racers... and are waiting unknowingly for our help... And it makes me feel so greytful to have such a wonderful group of volunteers at BGA looking out for them.

Thanks and best wishes to all for a happy Autumn and holiday season. I hope to see many of you at our Greyhound Planet Day walk and picnic in September!

*- Debbie Doxey, President  
Buffalo Greyhound Adoption*

**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.**

*Farewell  
My Friend . . .*

*Wrangler  
(Wild Wrangler)  
Clark*

*Max  
(Reckling Enso Sam)  
Eichelberger*

*Cosmo  
(K Cosmic Strusel)  
King*

*Augie  
(Dbulls Johnyutah)  
Kowalewski*

*Becky  
(ADF Dixie Chick)  
Murzynski*

*Robin Pringle*

*Winnie  
(Mad Klymerwyner)  
Stock*

*Baby  
(WP Baby Grand)  
Vaughan*

*Ferny  
(Russian Fern)  
Yager*

*Jewel  
(K's Jewel)  
Zywicki*

Correction from Summer 2013:  
The name of Ray and Connie  
Caputo's greyhound was misspelled.  
Correct spelling is Sweet Tart.

**Sweet Tart Caputo 1/20/00 – 4/21/13**

*by Connie Caputo*

Pet me, play with me, pay attention to ME! was her motto.  
Or possibly...outside is my favorite place to be.  
Inside, outside, all...day...long.  
Regardless of conditions – rain, snow or wind  
and oh my, did she love to dig!

Would whine for me to notice her  
and bark if that didn't work.  
Another ploy - nose nudges under the arm!  
To keep you near, she'd touch you by extending her paw.

Her name was perfect. Sweet most of the time, tart sometimes,  
but...it could easily have been Smarty, Shadow or Velvet.  
Knew many tricks; followed you everywhere; the softest coat...ever.  
Figured out how to get what she wanted; it really was, ALL about her.

Had beautiful eyes that reached into your soul,  
was so good at communicating what she wished for.  
Her greeting was to smell your breath,  
yet rarely was a kiss rewarded.  
She was curious about all animals  
and not afraid of any, big or small.

Quite the homebody, but loved Meet 'N Greet,  
Acted like a regal queen, such a good ambassador of the breed.  
Would get excited en route,  
and drag me to see her friends, old and new.

The couch was off limits at home,  
but the sitter would never know,  
by the way she hopped right on,  
as soon as I walked out the door!

She loathed me leaving her,  
yet ignored me on return,  
it's her sassy attitude and precociousness  
I miss the most.

**Do You Have a "Greyt" Story to Tell?**

Please submit your stories or photos for possible use in the Winter  
2013 issue of *Off Track Pets* to Diane Zwirecki by **Friday,**  
**November 1.** We welcome your contributions!

Contact Diane at 716-983-2978 or  
dzwirecki@communicatesucceed.com.

## So Many Ways to Support BGA

### MEET & GREETINGS

#### *First Saturday of the Month*

1 - 4 p.m.

#### **McKinley Mall**

Blasdell, NY

Use the Food Court entrance.

BGA is located on the Barnes & Noble corridor.

To volunteer, please contact

Sue, 716-655-0819 or

suehappytails@aol.com.

#### *Second Saturday of the Month*

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### **Pet Supplies Plus**

Niagara Falls Blvd.

North Tonawanda, NY

To volunteer, please contact

Kathy, tarashorty@yahoo.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

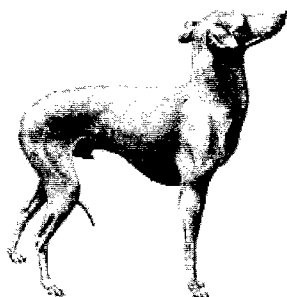
Julie, 716-417-1648 or

handbellgal@msn.com.

Mall captains are needed! Please

contact Julie, 716-417-1648 or

handbellgal@msn.com.



### COMING UP THIS FALL:

#### *Saturday, Sept. 28*

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### **The Farmer's Market at Williamsville Mill**

56 E. Spring St. (off Main St.)

#### *Sunday, Oct. 27*

#### **BGA Bubble Bath**

Camp Bow Wow

2131 Grand Island Blvd.

Tonawanda

Bring your dog for a bath, nail clipping, ear cleaning, bandanna and treat.

To volunteer or make an appointment, please contact Sue, 716-

655-0819 or suehappytails.com.

Unless otherwise noted, to

volunteer or for more information

on the above events, please

contact Carolyn, 716-681-7928

or lpillard@roadrunner.com.



*BGA volunteers Glory Kluck (foreground) and Susan Ortiz helped out at the June 30 Bubble Bath at Camp Bow Wow, Tonawanda. The next BGA Bubble Bath takes place Sunday, Oct. 27*

## Foster Homes Needed

As greyhounds continue to arrive in Western New York for their forever homes, Buffalo Greyhound Adoption is in need of foster homes to house them while they await permanent placement.

Can you help? Fostering is a "greyt" experience and a key step in ensuring the best possible homes for our new pets.

To learn more or get involved in fostering, please contact Sue Murzynski, 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com.



### Join Us! And Keep Your BGA Membership Up to Date

If you'd like to become a voting member of Buffalo Greyhound Adoption or have not recently updated your membership information, please notify BGA at your earliest convenience.

To become a voting member, apply on line at the BGA web site or contact us via email at info@b-g-a.org. Membership enables you to vote in BGA elections, run for office, and attend our Annual Meeting.

**Buffalo Greyhound  
Adoption, Inc.**

PO Box 1096  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

716-873-1165

info@b-g-a.org

www.b-g-a.org

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***Celebrating  
Greyhounds***

If you or someone you know has adopted a senior (age 7 or older) or special medical needs greyhound, then he or she 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 the following information: description of their dog's age and/or special need, name of their adoption group, and their name and mailing address. For more information, go to [www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/magazine](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/magazine).

