



Spring 2013

In this issue:

Meet ... Our Featured Volunteer Family, the Jones ...  
BGA Secretary Vince Moore ... and Jackson, who's looking  
for his forever home!

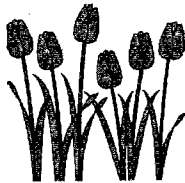


Visit us on the Web at  
[www.b-g-a.org](http://www.b-g-a.org)

*Why We Love - And Adopt - Greyhounds*

## Rio's Story

by Nancy Hammond



Two and a half years.

Think of all you have done in the past 2 ½ years. Now think of a retired racing greyhound waiting in a crate at the adoption kennel for 2 ½ years until he finally starts his journey to his forever home.

That is Rio's story. Rio, aka Black Stetson, raced for the last time on January 4, 2010 at Wheeling Island Race Track. After that, he was presumably sent to the GPA adoption kennel located at the track where he waited, and waited, and waited, to be adopted.

turned from Wheeling, WV with Kirk, our one-eyed black greyhound, who was at the track for ten months before being brought to Buffalo by BGA.

Paul came home all excited about his trip and our new family member Kirk. However, later that night he mentioned another black boy, with a gray snout, who was lifting his paw to the crate when Paul approached. He wished he could have brought him home too and said he would like to keep an eye on him to see if he was adopted.

As we settled into our routine with our two new wonderful greys, Gabby and Kirk, we would often wonder what happened to Rio. Well, we were about to find out.

In June 2012, I traveled to Wheeling for a conference and, since I was in the area, organized a toy donation drive for the dogs at the adoption kennel.

Unfortunately, when I dropped off the toys, Rio was still there. He was now six years old and was very overweight from such a long period of inactivity. The other dogs in the turnout pen would excitedly approach

*(cont'd on p. 5)*



You see, Rio wasn't perfect. He was deemed not to be cat safe, was a boy, and was black. Three strikes when a lot of adoption groups have applications seeking a grey that can cohabitate with cats and small animals.

I first heard of Rio in October 2011, after my husband Paul re-

# Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption  
Established 1991

## Saluting our BGA Volunteers: Keeping Up With the Jones Family

It's been less than two years since Scott, Sara, Alec and Isaac Jones laid eyes on their first greyhound. But seeing this Lancaster family in action, along with their beloved greys Rummy and Rudy, you'd think they'd been Buffalo Greyhound Adoption "greyt" volunteers forever.

The Jones' moved to Western New York from Akron, Ohio in March, 2011 when Scott was transferred to the region to work at Goodyear Dunlop Tires North America, Ltd., in Tonawanda. Four months later, the family paid a visit to Walden Galleria at the request of family members who were visiting from out of town. There, they stumbled upon a BGA meet and greet. The rest, as the old saying goes, is history

...  
"We had a golden retriever and were content, but were really charmed by the hounds just lying on the floor in the middle of a mall. We had never seen live greyhounds before," recalled Sara Jones.

"I must admit, we didn't ask many questions at the time because we weren't interested in adopting at the time," Sara continued. "We were more interested in just petting them."



*Rudy and Isaac Jones are pictured as Rudy enjoyed his first holiday season as a BGA adoptee.*

Shortly afterwards, the Jones lost their beloved retriever. Last January, they found BGA for the second time – on line – and decided the time had come to adopt.

"We had decided to wait until spring, but to Isaac, that meant January 1!" said Sara. "After much 'hounding' from him, we agreed, one Sunday near the end of January, to let him fill out the application."

"I admit I was a little bit afraid to apply because I didn't know much about these big, beautiful dogs," Sara continued. "I even questioned whether I was going to be qualified to take care of one. But before our visit, Sue (Murzynski, BGA adoption chair) invited us to come to the February bubble bath to see the hounds. Once we saw them all wagging their tails and sweet as could be, we were hooked."

The family went on to adopt Rummy, a 4 ½

*(cont'd on p. 3)*



*Rudy and Rummy Jones enjoy a recent winter outing.*

## 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



## Keeping Up With the Jones Family (*cont'd from p. 2*)

year old brindle, in February. And in August, 3 ½ year old Rudy, a black greyhound, joined the Jones household. The family also has a Chihuahua named Spike and a miniature dachshund named Hildy, as well as a cat called Lola who, according to Sara, “thinks we are crazy for having so many dogs!”

The Jones family quickly became active BGA volunteers. Sara is the self-proclaimed BGA “candy bar person,” playing a key fund-raising role administering ongoing sales of popular Niagara Candy bars. She also assists at the same event that first sold her loved ones on greyhounds as pets: bubble baths.

“I love to go to the dog washes when they come in from the tracks and kennels. It really is a Christmas morning kind of feeling for me, seeing them getting ready to start new lives as pets,” Sara said.

Sara accompanied BGA volunteer Sue Ronald on a trip to Syracuse to pick up some dogs, which she described as “a neat experience ... I will always remember the three dogs we loaded into the car and brought back.”

In addition to helping bring dogs into Buffalo, Sara and her family have taken the adoption process a step further as they foster greyhounds as a step toward readying the dogs for their “forever homes.”

“I was happy to start fostering. Taking a dog home to love and take care of it is really fulfilling for our family, although it’s hard to let them go, it is a great feeling, knowing we helped them transition into their new lives. It’s a very rewarding experience,” Sara said.

The Jones’ also took part in the fall 2012 BGA picnic at Como Park and enjoy attending meet and greets, where Sara noted that “it’s fun to watch other people get excited about the dogs and ask about them.”

As rewarding as it has been for the Jones family to get involved in BGA this past year, it has been equally invaluable to BGA to have their help, support and commitment. BGA extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to Scott, Sara, Alec and Isaac for all they do to help our dogs find their forever homes!

For more information on being a BGA volunteer, please contact a Buffalo Greyhound board member. (See page 2 for contact information.)

## Welcome to the Pack

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

**Edmund Alterio**  
**Peanut Bleckinger**  
**Jackson DiBernardo**  
**Cleo Doxey**  
**Coal Kuczkowski**  
**Evan Luce**  
**Rocky Pufal**

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### Dress Down Day Benefits BGA

Special thanks to Belinda Brzezinski and her colleagues at Hodgson Russ, LLP, who raised more than \$1,000 to benefit Buffalo Greyhound Adoption at their dress down day on Friday, Jan. 11. Belinda and two fellow greyhound owners donated baskets and held a raffle drawing as part of the day’s festivities.

### Put Old Muzzles To New Use

Do you have a greyhound muzzle that you are no longer using? If so, please consider donating it to Buffalo Greyhound Adoption. Muzzles for new dogs coming into Buffalo are costly. BGA can clean and reuse old ones, so please bring yours to the Greyhound Expo on Sunday, April 14 at Big Tree Fire Hall, Hamburg, or contact Sue, [suehappytails@aol.com](mailto:suehappytails@aol.com) or 655-0819.

### Foster Homes Needed!

As dogs continue to come to Western New York for their forever homes, Buffalo Greyhound Adoption is in need of foster homes to house them while they await adoption. Can you help? Fostering is a great experience and a key step in ensuring the best possible placement for all our “greyt” new pets. To get involved in fostering, please contact Sue Murzynski, 716-655-0819 or [suehappytails@aol.com](mailto:suehappytails@aol.com).

## Get to Know Your BGA Board of Directors

# Meet Vince Moore

*Buffalo Greyhound Adoption is led by a skilled, dedicated Board of Directors – a group of eight individuals who share a common vision and a commitment to helping BGA grow and succeed. In this and future issues, Off Track Pets introduces you to your BGA board members.*

Vince Moore was elected secretary of Buffalo Greyhound Adoption in October 2011, but he and his wife Michelle have been active BGA volunteers, leaders and supporters for quite some time. Prior to serving as secretary, Vince worked on a number of BGA committees including Membership and Election. Michelle Moore is a past board member who chaired the BGA Communications Committee.



*Michelle and Vince Moore have been active BGA volunteers for several years.*

The Moore family also includes five-year-old son Alex and two-year-old daughter Vanessa. Both Vince and Michelle have been booth captains at BGA meet and greet events and have conducted home visits to help place dogs for adoption. Even Alex and Vanessa have helped as the Moores help “child test” greyhounds.

The Moores have adopted three greyhounds, after Michelle spotted the BGA booth at the Erie County Fair. “That is where I first saw them as well,” said Vince. “What struck me was how outgoing and friendly the dogs were. We put in our adoption application in August 1997 and couldn’t wait to have a greyhound of our own.

Three months later, Heather came to live with the Moores, followed in October 1998 by Kobay and in March 2000 by Belle. Sadly, both Heather and Kobay succumbed to cancer in June 2008 and Belle passed away in October 2011.

“For 13 years, we were blessed to have these wonderful dogs in our house,” said Vince Moore. He added that although his family is “houndless” at this time, they have thought about adopting again in the future. Meanwhile, they continue to be an integral part of the BGA family and he shares fond memories of their beloved pets – each of whom was unique, yet all of whom were equally loved.

“Heather had just turned three when we adopted here. We made a ‘Welcome Home’ sign for her,” Vince recalled. “She had the softest black coat imaginable, with a white blaze on her chest and white on her paws. When we opened the door to let her in, she strutted in as if she owned the place. She was very curious about her new home and explored every room. That night, she settled down on her pillow and let out a big sigh – she knew that she had found her home.”

“Heather was very loving and protective,” he continued. “One instance that will forever stick with me is that Michelle was very sick and didn’t want to be disturbed. Even having the greys jump up on the bed next to her was too much. I called for our dogs to leave the room, but Heather refused to budge from her spot next to Michelle. She stayed there for the rest of the day, keeping her ‘mommy’ safe.”

Kobay, was an easy going, black and white male who according to his owner, loved to sing (or “roo”) and barked to greet every visitor. And, he was a couch potato.

“Kobay loved the couch. He practically lived there. He had a talent to find the smallest open space on the couch and squeeze into it. Of course, if you were on the couch, he eventually pushed you off. When he was relaxed, he wouldn’t sigh; instead, he’d let out what would best be described as a moan,” said Vince.

The Moores had the oppor-

*(cont’d on p. 6)*

## Why We Adopt Greyhounds: Rio's Story (cont'd from p. 1)

the fence to say hello, but Rio just stayed in the back corner by himself. One of the workers at the kennel told me that they often left his crate door open because he had been there so long, and they knew he wouldn't go anywhere. I took some pictures with the hope of finding someone who would fall in love with Rio and give him his much-deserved forever home. In the meantime, Pam from GPA was actively promoting Rio and planned on having him neutered in the hope that it would make him more appealing to an adoption group.

About a month later, I received the great news that BGA would bring in Rio as a foster until they could find him a permanent home. Paul and I volunteered to be Rio's foster parents and also to transport him from Wheeling to Buffalo.

When we arrived at the kennel, Rio and another boy we were transporting were let out of their crates to go into the turnout pen before our trip to Buffalo. I swear Rio sensed that this was finally his time to start his journey to a forever home, because he excitedly jumped around in a circle for a good long time. He had watched this routine over and over again, and now it was

his turn!

Rio settled into his foster home very quickly, despite the length of time he spent at the kennel. BGA worked hard to find Rio a forever home, and several people were interested in adopting him, but there wasn't a good fit due to Rio's keenness on cats and small animals. It was also decided that Rio would benefit from being placed in a home with another grey.

About four weeks into our fostering of Rio, Paul and I went on vacation to Martha's Vineyard (with Gabby & Kirk), and Rio temporarily stayed with another foster family. I knew I had a major problem when I had tears in my eyes as Paul left to take Rio to the other foster family. All during our vacation, I couldn't help but think that something (really someone) was missing. However, we never planned on having three dogs again, particularly because we love to travel with our greys, and we knew it would be difficult to find vacation rentals that would allow three large dogs.

We thought about what was really important in our lives, and the decision was easy. Rio stole our hearts, and his being part of our family was worth any small sacrifice we would have

to make. (As an aside, we have been fortunate to have already found two rentals that would take all three of our greys!)

Rio is a gentle soul (except when he sees a small dog on our walk), and all he wants to do is please us. He looks up at us with those big brown eyes, and you can see how grateful he is to have a real home. After years of sleeping on shredded paper, Rio loves pillows and blankets—the more the better. He's still coming out of his shell, and his silly personality is starting to emerge.

While Rio's story has a happy ending, there are countless others just like him at the adoption kennel waiting for a home because they have a special need. Really, all they need is a chance and some patience. As the proud mom of two "special needs" black boys, I urge you to give one of these truly special greys a chance. If you have an application pending or are considering adopting your first grey or expanding your grey family, ask your BGA contact if there are any "special needs" dogs awaiting adoption that would fit your home.

We are so grateful that when we were looking for a boy to replace our beloved Star, we were told about Kirk, who eventually led us to Rio.

**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.**

## **Meet Vince Moore** *(cont'd from p. 4)*

tunity to meet the family who adopted Kobay's litter mate, Ricky, so the dogs had a chance to play together on what Vince described as "a great day."

Belle joined the Moores as a foster dog who had raced as Nitro Trouble and "we were having trouble trying to figure out what to call her," said Vince. "On the way home from the dog wash, we came up with her name. That first night at our house, she wouldn't potty outside and as I remember, it was pretty cold outside. Fortunately, that changed."

Because Belle's weight topped out at 58 pounds, the Moores also

referred to her as "Peanut." But her owners recall that what she lacked in size, she made up in determination. "If she didn't want to move, you couldn't move her. If she wanted to get somewhere, she got there. Even toward the end when she had trouble walking on shiny floors, if she wanted to get to her bed, she found the strength to get there."

Letting go of their greys, Vince said, was the most difficult three decisions of the Moores' lives. "It always seemed like we would have enough time, but life has a different plan and then there isn't enough time. I miss them

so much and would love for the chance to give them a hug and a kiss. But, as the song 'One More Day' by Diamond Rio says, 'Then again, I know what it would do, leave me wishing still, for one more day with you.'"

Heather, Kobay and Belle are memorialized by greyhound statues that sit atop their ashes at their home in Depew.

As secretary, Vince Moore tracks membership and takes and records board minutes. In addition to being an active BGA volunteer, he has a personal interest in history and has enjoyed researching greyhounds. He is a paralegal at Phillips Lytle, LLP in the Land, Environment and Energy Practice Group.

***Heartfelt thanks to Vince, Michelle and their family for helping to make BGA "greyt!"***

## *Farewell My Friend ...*

*Boomer Becker*

*Shelly  
Senorita Shelly*

*Bleckinger*

*Ramses  
Buddy Ryan*

*Cardina*

*Eskimo  
PA's Eskimo Pie*

*Cotton*

*Satchmo  
Dead Sexy Dexter  
DiBernardo*

*Daisy DUEWINGER*

*River  
Tailteann River  
Klemenich*

*Splash  
Prime Splash  
McMurray*

*Angel  
Greys Angel Star  
Murzynski*

*Jumper  
Hello Jumper  
Paschen*

*RB  
RB Brindle Boy  
Paschen*

*Mickey Riggs*

*Joker  
Covered Bridge  
Rohauer*

*Tigger Schifferle*

*Toby  
Butch Fromboston  
Schreiner*

*Schatzie  
JC Classy Lady  
Sullivan*

## **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).

## So Many Ways to Support BGA

### MEET & GREETINGS

**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  
Sue, 716-655-0819 or  
suehappytails@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.

**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.

### ALSO COMING UP:

**Sunday, March 2**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Bubble Bath

Camp Bow Wow  
231 Grand Island Blvd,  
Tonawanda

Bring your dog for a bubble bath,  
nail clipping, ear cleaning,  
bandanna and a treat. \$15.

To volunteer or make an appointment,  
contact Sue, 716-655-0819  
or suehappytails@aol.com.

**Friday, June 7 - 6:30 p.m.**

#### New Adopters Social

40 Audley End, Amherst

Anyone who has adopted a greyhound through BGA is welcome.  
Weather permitting, dogs also are invited. Watch for more information!

### 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.

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

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

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

## Jackson: A Friendly Boy Looking for a Forever Home

Take a look at this playful boy ... Jackson, who raced as Gable Adidas, had a long, winning track record. He is nine years old.

He is playful and loves to take walks and ride in the car. In foster care, he has adapted well to routine and loves to greet people with enthusiasm. He stays off furniture and enjoys his stuffed toys and the comfort of a warm blanket or afghan.

For more information on how to adopt Jackson or another greyhound, please contact Sue, suehappytails@aol.com or 655-0819.



**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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*Sunday, April 14 - 12 Noon to 4 p.m.*

**Greyhound Fair & Expo Moves to New Location This Year**

***Big Tree Fire Hall***

***4307 So. Park Ave., Hamburg***



**FREE ADMISSION**

**50/50 Raffle \* Chinese Auction \* Pizza, Pop & Snacks**

**Bring your family, friends, greyhounds and other leashed pets.**

***Dozens of vendors and great shopping for humans and hounds alike.***

**Representatives will be available to answer questions on adopting pets,  
fostering and related topics.**

***You can help by volunteering or donating auction items, bake sale  
desserts or snacks.***

***If you can help, please contact Christine Cotton, 716-827-8347 or  
cotton@yahoo.com.***

