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Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
Established 1991

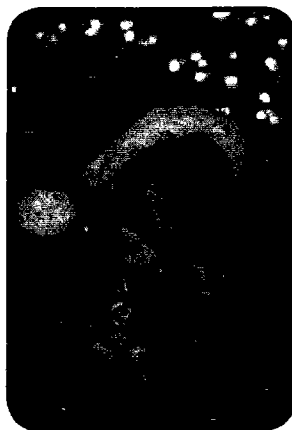
Pet Photos with Santa!
Sunday, Dec 8
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
No appointment needed!
Lancaster Volunteer
Ambulance Corp.
40 Embury Place, Lancaster
\$7 for a
photo of your best friend!

Winter 2013

In this issue:

BGA Elections Held ... A Greyt Love Story ... Canine Blood Donations: Paying it Forward ... Snapshots of Fall Events

Have a "Greyt" Holiday Season!



Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors and the entire Buffalo Greyhound Adoption family!

Thank you for your continued support in 2013 ... We've had a successful and rewarding year, placing more than 40 greyhounds in their forever homes

throughout Western New York.



From meet and greets and booths at events throughout the year to our picnic, bubble baths and the awesome work done by our adoption team to transport dogs and our wonderful foster families ... and all those dedicated volunteers too numerous to mention ... we couldn't have done it without you!



Still finishing up your holiday shopping? How about a 2014 "Celebrating Greyhounds" calendar, priced at \$12?

Our new BGA car stickers, at a cost of just \$3, make great stocking stuffers. Just mail a check to BGA (see the address on page 8) and we'll mail you a sticker.

BGA pullover embroidered sweat-shirt or hoodie can be ordered by contacting Sue Murzynski at 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol. They are priced at \$28.

Enjoy a safe and happy season with your loved ones - and all the best for the New Year!



BGA Reelects Vice President, Elects Secretary

At the November meeting of the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA) Board of Directors, Christine Cotton was reelected vice president and Glory Kluck



Christine Cotton

was elected secretary.

Christine has been a BGA member since

2004. She notes that

her “life changed forever when my daughter, Caity, and I were privileged enough to welcome Pa’s Eskimo Pie into our home. We adopted her on Memorial Day weekend, 2004. Of course, as any greyhound owner can attest to, I couldn’t have just one. Exactly one year later, we adopted Douglaston, also known as my angel “Dougie.”

Christine began volunteering at BGA bubble baths, where she “got to know many wonderful people who eventually became close friends. “ She and Caity also began volunteering for monthly meet and greets, where “we loved talking to passers-by about how wonderful greyhounds are.”

She was a member of BGA’s fundraising committee for four years, during which time she has chaired the extremely success-

ful meat raffles. Two years ago, she became involved with home visits and placements. “I love seeing the excited faces of the family and the dog at the time of placement,” Christine says. She also assists with bringing greyhounds into Western New York from various tracks.

Christine reports that the one BGA task she has “tried, and subsequently failed” at is fostering, as this past summer, she fostered – and subsequently adopted – Anubis. “He got along with our two greys immediate-



Glory Kluck

ly, and formed an especially close bond with Dougie. When Dougie became ill and eventually

passed away, we decided to take Anubis permanently into our home. I know in my heart that Anubis was sent me as a gift,” Christine says.

The Kluck family – Ken, Glory and Alex – has been involved with BGA since 1997, when they adopted their first greyhound, Pax. Glory recalls that “our family had been interested in getting a dog,

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A Greyt Love Story

By Louise & Andy McFarland, Schwenksville, PA

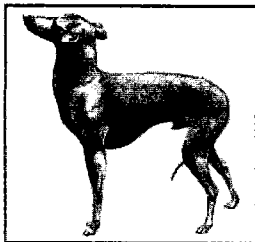
Our Greyt Love Story began in 1993 in Buffalo, when grey brindle Butch was placed with us. We'd seen the greyhounds at the Erie County Fair and told ourselves, "when the kids are grown and gone, we'll get our greyhound."

He pranced into our home with his outstanding racing profile. He was a \$10,000 stakes winner, won every one of his juvenile races but then was injured

Welcome to the Pack!

Welcome to these greyhounds, who are recent BGA adoptees:

Bella Beauman
Villa Drust
Zeke Farrell
Mo Glica
Riley Guagliano
Denver Harle-Mould
Jethro Harrigan
Flare Newman
Kissy Letourneau
Deco McKee
Karma Murawski
Jack Nelligan
Rosie Yager



—badly—and his career ended.

From the moment he entered our home, Butch immediately answered to his new name, Avogadro. He went on to an equally distinguished career as a therapy dog in several nursing homes where I was employed. He worked the heavy care units with our most compromised residents.

Avogadro went on to train greyhound #2, Riley. With his less than stellar racing career—Riley walked fast when he came out of the gate—he too was a "greyt" companion dog to the elderly residents, working a four-hour shift twice a week.

Riley was funky and fun, like an awkward teenager, and he looked to big brother Avogadro for tips on how it should be done.

A relocation to Pennsylvania brought us #3, the most elegant lady; we renamed her Cocoa—for Cocoa Channel. She was the most prissy, dainty, velvet white grey. She devoted her entire self to being beautiful. She made sure every eye was on her and every other grey in her presence knew she was most beautiful.

Grey #4 was a foster who stayed a little too long and decided she simply could not

leave. Cinnamon was just that in color; a true 60-pound, lap dog. She made sure we had ample time to caress and cuddle her as she curled—yes, curled up—in our laps!

Grey #5 sadly was no longer wanted by a family living just down the street. He faced the rejection with resolve and wasted no time becoming my own personal therapy dog, following me each and every step as I re-



"King" Riley was Grey #2 in the McFarland family.

learned to walk following knee surgeries. Ajay was committed to seeing me through even though he himself was fighting a losing battle within at the same time. His soft red brindle body was glued to mine as we both slowly walked up and down the hilly driveway several times each day.

Grey #6 - Bunsen - was lucky we were so experienced. His first months with us were spent terrified, shaking in the corner of the room, nibbling off a

(cont'd on p. 6)

Canine Blood Donation: Paying It Forward

by Mary Schreiner

Today more than ever, an increasing number of types of surgeries and life-saving measures are available for veterinarians to use. It stands to reason then, that the need for a safe and ongoing supply of canine blood has also increased. Many greyhound websites devote space to,



explaining the traits that make greyhounds excellent blood donors. One even describes greyhounds as the “blood” hounds of the canine medical world. Over the past ten years, *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine* has even published articles promoting the practice.

We are all aware of our greys’ sweet nature, but there are also several physiological traits that make greyhounds good blood donors:

- * Greyhounds are a large breed.

- * Approximately 70 percent of greyhounds have a blood type that enables them to be universal donors for all breeds of dogs.

- * Their blood has a higher percentage of red blood cells, a lower white cell count and a lower platelet count.

- * Their veins are easy to find.

- * Healthy greyhounds are able to give about 450 to 600 grams of blood every four to six weeks.

Quite a few years ago, I explored the possibility that my second grey, JJ, could be a blood donor. He passed the screening exam and was able to donate blood for about three years. It was at one of his required annual exams that his kidney disease was diagnosed and he retired from the program. That early diagnosis helped me to adjust his diet early enough that he lived for two and a half more years.

My third hound, Toby, was also tested, but he had antibodies in his blood for a tick-borne disease and was ineligible to be a donor. I was pleased this spring when my current hound, Shadow, passed his screening exam and became a donor.

In Western New York, we are fortunate to have a veterinary hospital in Orchard Park that is equipped to handle blood donation from dogs and cats and maintain a blood bank. The Orchard Park Veterinary Medical Center (OPVMC) maintains a canine blood bank that is

overseen by a veterinarian. This blood bank is maintained for the benefit of the dogs brought to the hospital for life-sustaining or emergency treatment. They also provide blood products to a few other local vets who may have a dog that needs a transfusion. The blood collection process uses sterile supplies so there is no risk of a donor acquiring infectious diseases by donating blood.

The process is quite simple. A veterinary technician shaves and swabs a small portion of skin on the dog’s neck and inserts a needle in the jugular vein. This can be done while the animal is either standing or laying down. The actual procedure usually takes about 15 to 20 minutes, after which pressure is applied to the area to stop the bleeding and the donor is offered a treat. The dog should avoid any physical exertion for about 24 hours. Once the blood is collected it is separated into several components so that several dogs may benefit from a single donation. It is important to note that an animal is never forced to submit to the procedure if it shows any sign of fear or apprehension.

The OPVMC is always looking for canine blood donors.

Requirements: The dog must be:

- * current on heart worm preventative and all vaccinations.

BGA Photo Album



Julie and Mike Maciejewski (below) greet guests at the BGA picnic in September at Como Lake Park, Lancaster.



Above: Carolyn Pillard, Ken Kluck, Glory Kluck, Iris Reese and Larry Pillard with Heidi at the picnic.

2013 raffle prize winners Mary Schreiner (with Shadow and Dwight) and Julie Zgoda at the BGA picnic.



A young shopper at the Williamsville Farmer's Market enjoyed getting to know BGA's booth dogs including Wholesale Zwirecki (above) and Daniel Doxey and Holly Scharmach (in photo on left of page.)



Evan (left) is comfy at home with his favorite "ducky" as his family, the Luces, celebrate the holiday season this year.

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 ...

Barbie
Lil'Bit Rock and Roll
Clark

Minimi
Chickage
Claycomb

Bella
TXS Cee Note
Drust

Abby
Hot Lips N Big Hips
Estee

Chase
Fior of Rice
Gallman

Maggie
PT Maggie
Finkley

Grace
Our Raven
Fortunato

Blaze
Bet on Turk
Pegg

Carly
Sharpie
Piskor

Nish
American Excess
Sullivan

Wieland
Waff
Villnave

A Greyt Love Story

(cont'd from p. 3)

little plate of food. Afraid to see us leave the room, afraid when we got too close.

Today, this deep brown brindle tosses his stuffies in the air and dances with delight when he greets us at the door. He is our no-fail first-alert system should anyone – 2 or 4 legged – enter



Andy McFarland with Grey #1, Avogadro, a Buffalo Greyhound adoptee.

his driveway.

Greyhound #7, Beaker, a pale fawn fellow, blind in one eye and a cancer survivor, came to us first as a foster and then after two failed adoptions, he settled in again with us as his forever family.

#6 is still with us, all the others having crossed the Rainbow Bridge. A long love story that started with Buffalo Greyhound Adoption and went through New Jersey Greyhound Adoption, First State Adoption and National Greyhound Adoption of Philadelphia has led us on a 20 year journey with amazing people dedicated to the same goal, finding someone to love who indeed loves you back even more.

We are so glad we opened our door, and our hearts, to Buffalo Greyhound Adoption.

BGA Meet & Greets

First Saturday of the month:

McKinley Mall, Hamburg, 1 to 4 p.m. Contact suehappytails@aol.com.

Second Saturday of the month:

Pet Supplies Plus, Niagara Falls Blvd. @ East Robinson Rd., Amherst
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact tarashorty@yahoo.com.

Fourth Saturday of the month:

Walden Galleria Mall, Cheektowaga, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Contact mrmski@msn.com.

Special Note of Thanks

The October bubble bath at Paws in the Pantry, Main Street, East Aurora raised more than \$1,000 to benefit BGA. Special thanks to all our event volunteers and to Pam at Paws in the Pantry for the generous donation of her shop, her supplies and her time.

BGA Elects Officers

(cont'd from p. 2)

but everyone in the house wanted something different! I still remember, as a teenager, reading my Mom's Good Housekeeping, and a lovely, tender picture of a young boy and a retired racing greyhound. I still remember that picture and thinking what a beautiful dog he was. Only God knew in that moment that years later, I would be taking the same type of picture with my own son and my own greyhound!"

The Klucks first made contact with BGA and saw their first live greyhound at a February 1997 dog show at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. And as Glory notes, "We all fell in love. After getting Pax, we became involved with meet and greets at Walden Galleria. Also, doing the Erie County Fair was always a highlight of our summers with our dog."

"We lost Pax, my beloved walking partner, after only six years, but stayed in touch with BGA through our dear friends, Carolyn

and Larry Pillard," Glory continues. "Carolyn asked me to help out at a bubble bath not long after Pax died and doing that was a bit hard at first, but really helpful in getting to see all the wonderful dogs again and being around our greyhound friends."

In 2007, the Klucks began fostering greyhounds, and adopted their second foster dog, Johnson, in June of that year. "Again, our time with this precious dog was too short – only four years," says Glory. "Since then, we are dog-less, but still devote to BGA and eager to continue helping the group and these wonderful hounds."

The Klucks have worked on BGA spaghetti dinners, fostering and transporting, as well as meet and greets and bubble baths.

Thank you, Christine, Glory and families – for all you do for BGA!

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.

Next BGA Bubble Bath Set for February 23

The next BGA Bubble Bath will take place Sunday, Feb 23, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Paws in the Pantry, 652 1/2 (rear entrance) Main St., East Aurora. Cost is just \$15 for a full pet "spa treatment!" - For a reservation, contact Sue Murzynski at 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com.

Do You Have a "Greyt" Story to Tell?

Please submit your stories or photos for possible use in the Spring 2014 issue of *Off Track Pets* to Diane Zwirecki by **Saturday, February 1, 2014**. Contact Diane at 716-983-2978 or dzwirecki@communicatesucceed.com.

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, Inc.

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Canine Blood Donations *(cont'd from p. 4)*

- * have an annual physical exam.
- * have no serious illness or infectious disease at the time of donation.
- * be free from any tick-borne disease.
- * have a calm temperament and be able to be still for 15 to 20 minutes
- * be between one and six years of age
- * weigh at least 50 pounds.

Benefits: The dog receives

- * a complimentary, complete annual physical exam.

- * complimentary heartworm preventative for as long as it remains in the program.

Lastly, if a donor dog is ever in need of a blood transfusion, the donor will be eligible to receive one blood product at no cost for each donation the dog has made.

You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped save the life of someone else's beloved pet.

You are not required to use the veterinary services of OPVMC to

be part of the blood donation program. You do need to be willing to pay for the initial screening physical exam. For further information one may call OPVMC (662-6660) and ask for Nancy Klass, LVT.

