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Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
Established 1991

hello
spring!

Spring 2014

In this issue:

Expo Coming Up March 30 ... And a New Springtime Rally to Rescue Event ... FDA Facts on Pet Treats ... A Lovable Brindle Seeking His Forever Home .. All This and More!

Greyhound Fair & Expo Set for March 30

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption will hold its annual Greyhound Fair & Expo Sunday, March 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Big Tree Fire Hall, 4307 South Park Ave., Blasdell.

Bring family, friends and pets and come join the fun! Volunteers also are needed, along with donations of gift baskets or items to include in baskets, desserts and snacks.

A wide variety of vendors and non-profit organizations will be participating. Enjoy great shopping for dogs and humans alike! BGA representatives will be on hand to answer questions about adoption, fund-raising, fostering, communications and events.

There will be a 50/50 raffle, as well as a basket auction. Pizza, pop and desserts will be available for a greyt big sale.

If you're interested in helping out as an event volunteer, please contact **Christine Cotton** at cgcotton@yahoo.com or Carolyn Pillard at 716-681-7928. Baskets can be dropped off at Christine's home at 20 Alsace, Buffalo, 14220 (716-827-8347) or at the homes of Debbie Doxey, 40 Audley End, Amherst, 14226 (716-836-3426) or **Julie and Mike Maciejewski**, 6709 Minnick Rd., Lockport, 14904 (716-417-1648).



Spring Clean Now for BGA's Summer Garage Sale!

As you're cleaning and reorganizing for spring, keep Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's annual Garage Sale in mind.



Date and venue are still to be determined, but the sale is a "greyt" fund-raising success each year – and is on the agenda for some time this summer.

BGA accepts gently-used donations for sale. Clothing and most electronics aren't accepted.

For more information or to arrange to have items picked up, please contact **Carolyn Pillard** at 716-681-7928.

From the President: **All our Greys are Champions**

As we go to print with our Spring newsletter, it still feels a lot like Winter in Western New York. I hope all of you and your hounds are finding ways to stay warm and dry!

For me and my hounds, the frigid spell has meant spending quite a few evenings by the fire watching the Winter Olympics in Sochi. Watching is about as close as I can come to sports - I'm a little in awe of people who can go 80 miles per hour on a sled or skis or perform quadruple jumps on ice skates. At least my dogs can watch knowing that they really were competitive athletes in the day! The highlight of the Olympics came for me when Gus Kenworthy, the US silver medalist in slope style skiing, announced in his post race interview that he was rescuing a stray dog and her pups and bringing them home. He might be the biggest Olympic hero for me.

My brindle boy, Padre, celebrated his fifth birthday during the Olympics. It's hard to believe it's been three years since a very timid Padre came up from Florida just shy of his second birthday. Padre had raced a few times, but suffice it to say, he wasn't podium material - if greyhound races had podiums. Not long after I adopted Padre, I found one of his races on line. The dogs all left the gate, running their best, then Padre took a nasty fall, tumbling head over

heels. The other dogs ran on to finish, but Padre jumped up and ran on finishing way behind by himself. I guess he had the spirit, if not the skill to win.

Like the Olympic medalists, some of our greyhounds were champions. Many were good competitors, but fell short in the end. Many others, like Padre, just didn't have what it took to win. They say that for the majority of the thousands of athletes who come to the Olympic Games, the goal is just being there to compete. I guess the same is true for greyhounds, albeit on a vastly smaller stage.

However well or poorly they raced, or whether they raced at all, I hope they all our greyhounds found gold in the end - when they celebrated the victory of finding a forever home and family.

Wishing you all warmer weather and gold of your own,

- *Debbie*
Debbie Doxey
BGA President



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Waiting for His Forever Home: Meet Teddy

*Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's featured dog seeking a forever home is **Teddy**, currently living with his foster family, **Julie and Mike Maciejewski**. Here's Julie's description of Teddy and what a super addition he could make to the right forever home:*

Teddy is a big, lovable, five-year-old brindle boy. He loves all kinds of toys, especially bones, and likes to have them where he can see them (see picture).

We take everything to a back bedroom and Teddy is usually the one who brings them back out – probably within five minutes of us taking them out of the living room. Make sure to have at least one blanket that he can rearrange – this can provide several minutes of entertainment on its own!

He gets along very well with

Welcome to the Pack!

Welcome to these greyhounds, who are recent BGA adoptees:

James Barratt/Wildzynski

Sander Burtis

Kenya Caputo

Villa Drust

Lola Filozof

Mez Greene

Dawn Grossner/Jankowski

Tolek Jones

Copito Lingle

Esmeralda Lingle

people and larger dogs (see picture). As far as small dogs or cats go – not so well. He is very keen on small animals and would not do well in a home where small animals live or visit often.

Also, he should not be placed in a home with small children that crawl around in diapers (small, puffy white things to chase).

He loves to run around our fenced yard and play with our greyhound while our shepherd mix watches and barks at them. Since he is used to being with his foster sisters, he would probably do better with at least one other dog.

Teddy is very inquisitive and will check to see if you want to share anything on a plate. He also seems to be drawn to coffee. Teddy is a “greyt” dog and we hope he finds a forever home soon. He will make someone a very lovable and entertaining family member.

Foster Homes Needed

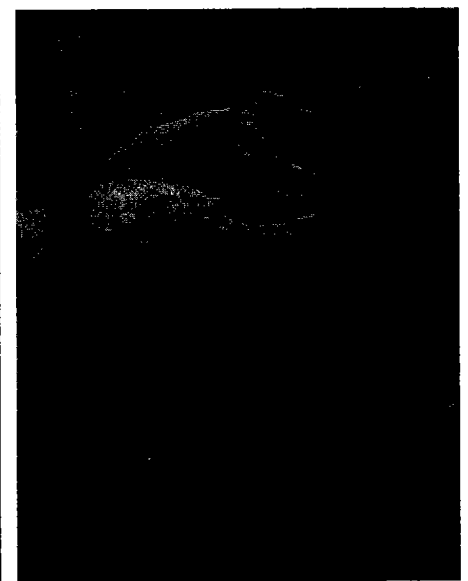
As greyhounds continue to arrive in Western New York, foster homes are needed as they await permanent placement.

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.



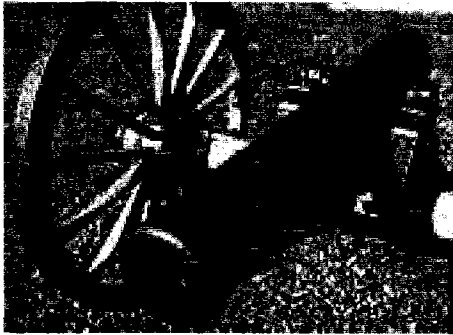
*Teddy loves toys, blankets and other large canine friends. He'd also love a forever home. Contact **Sue Murzynski** at 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com for more information on this and other BGA adoption opportunities.*



Bring Your Greyhound to Gettysburg

Ever been to Gettysburg? If so, you know what an awesome place it is to visit – as a historical site and a place to take your dog and enjoy Greyhounds in Gettysburg, taking place this year from Thursday, April 24 through Sunday, April 27.

The largest event of its kind in the country, Greyhounds in Gettysburg offers a full four days' worth of events including your very own Welcome Bag and Greyhound Go-Bag, offering everything you need to travel comfortably with your dog.



This year, walk-in day registrations are priced at \$15 per person per day (Friday and Saturday). Fee includes your Go-Bag – while supplies last – and admittance to that day's activities.

Here's a snapshot of weekend events:

Thursday

• *Party at the Outlet Mall.*

Bring your hounds to the off-leash play area. Enjoy a continental breakfast and special mall discounts, with dogs welcome

in almost every store. Featured again this year will be the Greyhounds in Gettysburg costume parade.

• ***Gettysburg In-Town Experience.*** Taking place on Thursday afternoon, this is a guided, historic tour of downtown Gettysburg.

• ***Greyhounds, Ghosts and Generals.*** A Thursday evening bonfire on the grounds of the Eisenhower Hotel, complete with a ghost storyteller, living history characters and a ghost tour of the mansion next door.

Friday

• ***Banquet.*** Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Guillermo Couto, director of the Greyhound Wellness Initiative and former director of the Ohio State Greyhound Wellness Program. Dinner will be followed by a live auction featuring artwork and the Gettysburg Six – fun paper mache hounds decorated by local artists.

• ***Education 4-U.*** Dr. Douglas Knueven of the Beaver Animal Clinic, Pittsburgh, will discuss alternative health care for greyhounds. He will host three sessions during the day. Also: David Wolfe, director of NGAP, will give a photo tour of their Philadelphia facility and discuss dental issues in greyhounds.

Saturday

• ***Live concert under the stars at Hauser Winery.*** The winery will offer food items for purchase. Also featured will be live

music, an ice cream social and a wine tasting.

• ***Education 4-U.*** Dr. Couto will offer a two-hour session on greyhound health. Also: Scooby North America and Petra Postma of SAGE will present updates on Spanish Galgo rescue efforts. Jason Hilt of the Brave Tide Foundation will overview his vision for greyhound flight.

Those interested in staying at the Eisenhower Hotel are advised to make reservations early. If you plan to stay there without your dog, you can request a room in the Aspire wing.



More information on Greyhounds in Gettysburg and area accommodations can be found at www.greyhoundsinget-tysburg.org.

We Need Your Help!

An 8 x 15 foot wooden storage shed has been donated to BGA. Can you assist in having it picked up at its location in Arcade and transported to Elma, NY? If so, please contact **Sue Murzynski** at 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com.

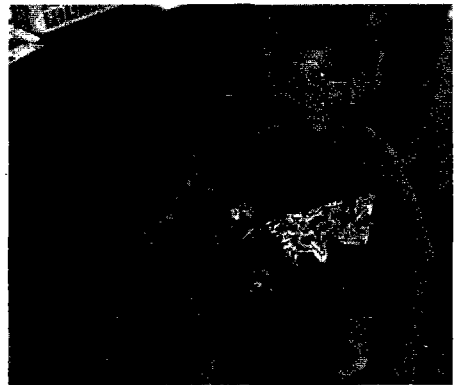
BGA Seeks Volunteers for Erie County Fair

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption will continue its more-than-two-decade tradition by having a booth at the 2014 Erie County Fair, which this year runs from August 6 through 17 at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY.

Volunteers will be needed to fill shifts throughout the duration of the fair. As a BGA volunteer, you receive free fair admission for the day. To volunteer or for

more information, please contact Laurie Graziano at 716-636-0971 or grazialm@buffalostate.edu.

During its 20th anniversary year in 2011, BGA also celebrated 20 years at the fair. Help us continue this tradition by volunteering in 2014 ... and take the rest of the day to enjoy one of America's greatest county fairs!



Rally to the Rescue Adds Paws for Summer Event

In addition to its annual Pre-Holiday Pet Expo in November, Rally to the Rescue will sponsor a new spring event in 2014: the Paws for Summer Pet Expo on Saturday, May 31.



Paws for Summer will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the VFW Post, 299 Leydecker Rd., West Seneca 14224. Piece of Heaven Kitten Adoption is the host agency for the event.

The expo will be held outdoors within a large, fenced-in sheltered area. Buffalo Greyhound Adoption will join vendors, crafters and animal rescue organizations to kick off the summer event season.

Paws for Summer will feature a basket raffle, pony rides, a Weidners chicken barbecue, pet photos with Uncle Sam, and a variety of summer food trucks.

A series of pet-related topics will be presented by guest speakers throughout the day.

Each year, funds raised at the BGA booth at the Erie County Fair support greyhound adoption efforts.

In addition, awareness is raised and information is distributed to help greys find their forever homes in Western New York.



So Many Ways to Support BGA ...

If you'd like to get involved in supporting Buffalo Greyhound Adoption and get to know fellow hound lovers and make some greyt new friends –your time, our talent and your 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

Farewell My Friend ...



Molly
JNB Ragdoll
Chinni

Duchess
Alma's Pride
Gallmann

Bo
DA's Bodacious
Lingle

Jazz
Copper Kettle Ed
McDonough

Twiggy
Ready to Muster
Toth

can truly make a difference in the life of a greyhound.

Contact one of the BGA board members (see page 2) to learn more.

Among the efforts you can become involved in are Meet & Greets (see schedule below) and lottery ticket sales. Tickets will go on sale in April for May 2014 daily drawings.

The cost of each ticket is \$5. Prizes are \$25 per weekday and \$50 on weekends. If you would like to purchase or sell tickets, contact **Dave Heckmiller** at theheckmillers@aol.com.

NIAGARA
Chocolates

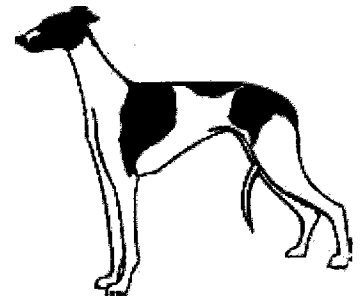
Easter is just around the corner, and for just \$1, you can purchase mouth-watering Niagara Candy

bars in a variety of flavors including milk and dark chocolate, mint, peanut butter, almond and more. BGA receives 100 percent of the proceeds.

For more information on buying and/or selling Niagara Candy, contact **Laurie Graziano** at gzialm@buffalostate.edu or 716-636-0971.

BGA also accepts donations of greyhound muzzles for use with new dogs as they are transported in from tracks across the country, and bags of Purina One Lamb 7 Rice food.

If you are interested in helping with transporting greys from tracks to Buffalo, contact **Sue Murzynski** at 16-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com.



Upcoming 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.

Cheektowaga Crabapple Fest - Saturday, June 7
Cheektowaga Town Park - 1 to 5 p.m.



FDA Investigating Safety Of Jerky Pet Treats

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been actively investigating consumer complaints about jerky pet treats causing illness in dogs and some cats. As of September, more than 3,600 dogs and 10 cats had reportedly become ill.

The treats are sold as jerky tenders or strips and are made with chicken, duck, sweet potato, dried fruit, and in combinations of these ingredients.

Product samples have been tested for contaminants known to cause symptoms and illnesses including Salmonella, metals, pesticides and antibiotics, and were screened for other chemicals and poisonous compounds. To date, none of the tests have revealed the cause of the illnesses.

What to Watch For

Watch your pet closely. Signs that may occur within hours to days of feeding the products are decreased appetite, decreased activity, vomiting, diarrhea, increased water consumption and/or increased urination. Severe cases are diagnosed with pancreatitis, gastrointestinal bleeding and kidney failure.

The FDA recommends that owners whose pets become sick after eating jerky pet treats should

hold onto any unused portion of the product in the original container for at least 60 days, in case the administration requests samples for testing. Owners should place the container inside a sealable plastic bag if possible.

You Can Help

You can help the FDA's investigation by reporting your complaints through the Safety Reporting Portal (www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov) or your local FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator (www.fda.gov/Safety/ReportaProblem/ConsumerComplaintCoordinators/default.htm).

You also can contact the pet food company (see packaging for contact information) and alert them about your pet's illness.

For More Information

FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine:
www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/default.htm

Report pet food complaints:
www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/Safety/Health/ReportaProblem/ucm182403.htm

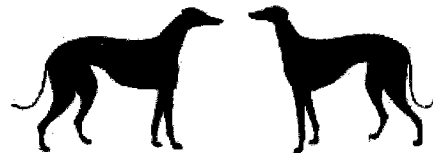
Questions and answers about jerky treats:
www.fdw.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ProductSafetyInformation/ucm295445.htm

Donate Cans & Bottles to BGA

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption needs your empty beverage cans and bottles!

Please consider bringing them to upcoming BGA events.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



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 2014 issue of *Off Track Pets* to Diane Zwirecki by **Thursday, May 1, 2014**. Contact Diane at 716-983-2978 or dzwirecki@communicatesucceed.com.

**Buffalo Greyhound
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Next BGA Bubble Bath Set for June 22

Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 22 - the date of BGA's next Bubble Bath - 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 reservations, contact Sue Murzynski at 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com.



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.