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Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
Established 1991

Winter 2016

In This Issue:

**BGA Celebrates its 25th Anniversary ...
Meat Raffle a Success Again This Year .. and More!**

From the President:

On To A New Year

This is a difficult note to write because, for us at Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, 2015 was a bittersweet year. It will be a year we look back on and feel our hearts swell for all the good that happened.

Our events for the year were very successful thanks to our willing volunteers. Our regular monthly Meet & Greets always show off our hounds and the pleasures of having a greyhound.

We made our usual appearance at the Erie County Fair to do the same. Our dog walks started up again and everyone seems to enjoy them. We went to a variety of places including Canalside, Burchfield Park, Amherst State Park, and Knox Farm. These walks are great for coming out for an hour or so and meeting other people and hounds from our group. Look for those to start again in 2016.

We gathered for our annual picnic at Como Lake Park on a beautiful day in September. Everyone enjoyed our BGA Garage Sale over the summer and our Spring Flower Sale. In November, we resurrected our annual Meat Raffle. If you've never been to a meat raffle, you're really missing out. A load of delicious meats were won and

a freezer was raffled off. A good time was had by all and we'd like to thank our ringleader, Ken Kluck, who led us in the right direction and helped us pull this successful night off.

All in all, our fundraising year (chaired by Carolyn Pillard) was very good and set us up for another "greyt" year in 2016.

The year also left our hearts heavy. We've lost loved ones who meant so much to us, and their passing left a hole in our hearts.

They will not be forgotten.

Their memories will be

cherished. As the Scottish poet, Thomas Campbell wrote, "To live in the hearts of those we love is never to die." We try to honor the memory of Dick Murzynski, Sue's husband, in these pages. We want to thank all those who remembered Dick in a memorial to BGA. (See page 4.)

With that being said, we now look forward to 2016 and what it has in store for us. We'll try and get as many upcoming events into this newsletter as possible.

You can always find us



*BGA President
Mike Maciejewski*

(cont'd on p. 3)

BGA Celebrates 25 Years

By Debbie Doxey, Immediate Past President

Happy 2016 to all and happy birthday to BGA. For those of you who know, and to others who might not, 2016 is a special year for Buffalo Greyhound Adoption. 2016 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of BGA (started in a kitchen in Cheektowaga in the Fall of 1991 and formally incorporated in February 1992) and the beginning of our 26th year of helping retired racing greyhounds, and greys who didn't make it to racing, find forever homes

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption is one of the oldest greyhound rescue and adoption groups in the country. Over those years, we have helped more than 2,000 greyhounds find a friend or family with whom to live for a happy life in retirement after leaving the track. We look forward to being here until every retired racing greyhound has a home.

As past president, BGA has become an important part of my life and I'm happy to be heading up the 25th anniversary celebration committee. I hope you all will share your stories with us

and let us know what you'd like to see to celebrate our anniversary. Please save the date for our 25th anniversary dinner, to be held Saturday, September 17 at Banchetti's by Rizzo's in Amherst, and look out for a number of special anniversary events and limited edition merchandise we'll be featuring throughout the year (including retro buffalo t-shirts, new 25th anniversary fleeces and custom-designed silver pendants). Also, for new and old adopters, please share your stories on our Facebook page or in the newsletter. We'd love to hear from you about you and your hounds!!

On a personal front, I've been so happy to have been involved with BGA for so many years and for the eight greyhounds I've adopted, from my first, Twilight Gale (Gale) in 1999, through my most recent, Aero Plane (Parker) in 2014... And for Cedric, Skye, Sidney, Daniel, Padre and Cleo in between... And for my 66 foster dogs...

*Happy 25th anniversary,
BGA!!*

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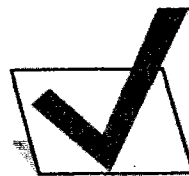
Mark Your Calendar!
2016 BGA Expo

Sunday, May 15

Weber VFW Post

2909 So. Park Avenue, Lackawanna

Watch for more information!



Welcome to the Pack!

Welcome to these greyhounds,
who are recent BGA adoptees:

Chloe Ando
Stella Bayer
Peanut Butter Martell/Kammerer
Boomer Maciejewski
Lily Sue Malone
Atlas O'Keefe
Tootie Phillips
Hattie Reese
Tricky Taylor
-Jerry Was
Stan Wasikowski/Whalen
Elana Zeeb
Zorro Zeeb



*"I am joy in a wooly coat, come to dance into your life,
to make you laugh."*

Tully's

Great Food & Good Times

Join us in supporting

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption

Tuesday, March 15th, 2016

Bring this **PRINTED** coupon to

Tully's Good Times

1449 French Rd, Depew, NY

Have dinner and support your community!

Tully's will donate 10% of the sales
from all receipts collected and accompanied
by this coupon, excluding tax and tip. A **printed coupon**
must be surrendered in order for the above
organization/group to receive credit.

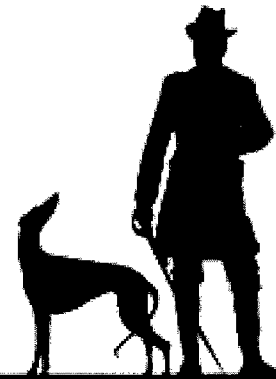
Tully's to Support BGA

Plan to stop for a bite to eat
at Tully's, 1449 French Road,
Depew, on Tuesday, March
15 – and present this coupon
with your purchase. Additional
coupons may be obtained at
TullysGoodTimes.com.

Tully's will donate 10 percent
of the proceeds of all coupon
sales to Buffalo Greyhound
Adoption on that date. Par-
ticipants must bring a coupon
with them and present it at their
table. *Thank you!*

Memorial Gifts to BGA

During 2015, Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, Inc. received a number of donations that were memorial gifts for a friend or loved one. This type of donation is greatly appreciated, no matter the size. As a non-profit organization, we depend on fundraisers and donations of all kinds to support our work to find forever homes for the hounds we bring in. We actually lose money with each dog placement since the amount we receive for an adoption does not completely cover the costs incurred when a dog is brought in. Memorial gifts are bitter-sweet because of the reason we are receiving that donation, but they can make a huge difference in the function of BGA. *Thank you for remembering your friend or loved one with a memorial gift to BGA.*



GREYHOUNDS IN GETTYSBURG

18th Annual
Greyhounds in Gettysburg
April 28 – May 1

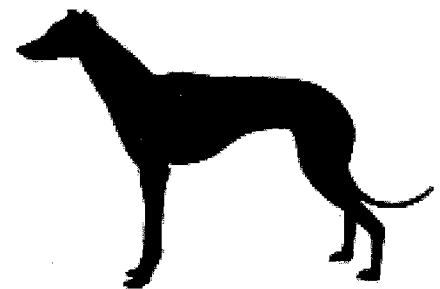
To learn more about
this greyt event, visit
www.greyhoundsingettysburg.org.

From the President (cont'd from page 1)

and our latest news on our Face-
book page, or the BGA Digest.
On Yahoo, you find notes on the
Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
group page. Our new web site is
also getting in gear, so look for
it at www.buffalogreyhound.org,
or our old site, www.b-g-a.org.

We're always looking for new
people to come on out and help
us spread the word about our
fur friends. Please contact us if
you want to join us at one of our
events. Until next time, hounds
to you!

-Mike



Farewell My Friend ...

Harlow (Ditto Lynn) Barry

Katie (Like My Beach) Drescher

Angus (Abita Ambassador) Greig

Stacey (Gable Stacey) Giglia -
Copito Lingle

Sammygirl (She's a Sammy)
Mazur

Foxy (Gable Fawkes)
Rautenstrauch

Sheldon (KT's Cannonball)
Schneider

Lady Bug (RB Ladybug)
Schular-Lounsbury

2015 BGA Meat Raffle a Huge Success

by Glory Kluck



Buffalo Greyhound Adoption held a Meat Raffle at the Leonard Post VFW Hall, Cheektowaga, on Saturday, November 14, 2015. All the efforts of a greyt team of volunteers, who planned, prepared for and/or worked at the event paid off and contributed to a hugely successful event. The raffles of the freezer, our big basket of cheer, our two 50/50 drawings and the many door prizes we gave away were a nice added touch and contributed greytly to the success of the event.

Our MC and his staff did a fantastic job in running the event, including keeping the meat flowing and the volunteer team of girl ticket runners on their toes. Many comments were heard from attendees that it was one of the better meat raffles they have attended.

All in all it was a greyt night of fun. I guess this means we better start preparing for our next meat raffle for 2016!

BGA Remembers a Good Friend

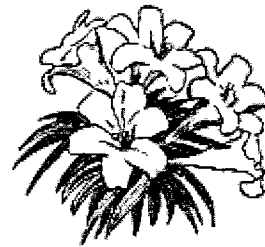
Dick Murzynski, a long-time member and leading supporter and volunteer for Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, passed away in September, 2015. He was a generous man of strong, common-sense values, very kind and loving, and he is sorely missed by one and all at BGA. We have lost a very dear friend ...

Dick and his wife, Sue, became BGA members in May 1995, when they adopted their first

greyhound, Beau. For more than two decades, Sue – and until his death, Dick – were dedicated and devoted to BGA. Sue continues this commitment. They volunteered at and attended virtually every event, loved being together with the dogs, and worked as a team to help BGA in any way they could.

At Sue's business, Happy Tails, Dick made the leashes and the wooden silhouette hounds. He

could build or fix just about anything. His pedal-driven wagon was used in East Aurora at the



very first parade in which BGA participated, which marked the start of the group's involvement in community parades and events.

Dick will be remembered always for his deep love of greyhounds and other dogs – and the countless dogs that he and Sue have fostered. Rest in peace, Dick, and thank you from all of your friends at BGA.

Lost Greyhound 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. BGA will immediately dispatch a search team to help you out. Volunteers are needed to be a part of this group. Please send your cell phone number (for texting purposes) and/or email address to beabgavolunteer@gmail.com if you can help.

BGA Meet & Greet's Coming Up

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.

Be "In the Know" with BGA

By Eileen Stevic, BGA Events Co-Chair

Did you know that we have other ways to communicate important BGA information, other than this newsletter? One way to keep informed about BGA events and info is to like our page on Facebook. If you are on this social media site, you can search for "Buffalo Greyhound Adoption" - and be sure to select the community that has our group logo as its profile photo!

Also, we have been communicating important bulletins and updates through a community on Yahoo.com. This is another great way for us to get the word out about BGA goings-on. The Yahoo Digest enables us to enter an announcement, reminder or other communication and, with a click of a button, it will send an email to all members!

Although we have had this Yahoo community for a while, we realize that we need to add many more recent adopters and other new BGA stakeholders to this group. In order to do this, we will need to have the administration of our group switched to a new person - yours truly - so that invitations can be sent to new members to join. This will

require us to set up a poll on the BGA Group page, which will send out an email notification to all current BGA Yahoo community members, asking them to "vote" and elect me as the new administrator of the group. Once this happens, then Yahoo will switch the administration to me and I will be able to begin managing the group.

So, if you are currently receiving notifications from the BGA Yahoo group, please be on the lookout for an email request to "elect" me as the new site administrator - and take a moment to vote, following the instructions given.

If you are not currently a member of the Yahoo group, please send me an email at rstevic@verizon.net and, once I have the appropriate permissions, I will be able to send you an invitation to join.

With so many greyt events coming up - our 25th anniversary celebration, the BGA Expo, Meet & Greet's and all our appearances at events throughout the year - you will want to be sure you are in the know with BGA!

Update Your BGA Membership 5

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 at buffalogreyhoundinfo@gmail.com. Membership enables you to vote in BGA elections, run for office, and attend our Annual Meeting.

We welcome new active members. Please consider getting involved! To volunteer for BGA, contact beabgavolunteer@gmail.com.

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.

Do You Have a "Greyt" Story to Tell?

Please submit your stories or photos for possible use in the Spring 2016 issue of *Off Track Pets* to Diane Zwirecki by **Friday, April 22**.

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

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, Inc.

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buffalogreyhoundinfo@gmail.com

www.b-g-a.org

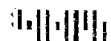
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So Many Ways to Support BGA ...

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

sider volunteering for an event.

Among the efforts you can become involved in are Meet & Greets (see page 5) and lottery ticket sales. The cost of each lottery 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.

For more information on buying and/or selling Niagara Candy, contact Laurie Graziano at grazialm@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 & Rice food.

If you are interested in helping with transporting greys from tracks to Buffalo, contact Sue Murzynski at 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.com.

And ... There's our Spring Flower Sale!

Spring flowers and baskets will be sold in April and May to benefit Buffalo Greyhound Adoption. Pick-up will be on Memorial Day weekend. For more information, contact Christine Cotton at cgcotton@yahoo.com.

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.