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Fall 2011

Off Track Pets
News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption - Established 1991

From The President: A "Greyt" Team Makes BGA Work

I hope all of our readers and their families, two-legged and four, enjoyed our lovely summer. But the shorter days and cooler nights are here to remind us that summer is really over and autumn has arrived. I guess that isn't all bad. There is something special about taking the dogs for a walk on a pretty fall day or watching them curl up beside a cozy fireplace.

As always, summer was very busy for BGA and our awesome volunteers. BGA dogs and their owners were out for at least one event just about every weekend (sometimes several), hosting visitors at various parks, farm markets, festivals and BGA-sponsored events, in addition to our regular monthly venues, and wrapping up with 11 days at the Erie County Fair, which paid for itself twice with the donations we received. (I'll never forget, when I was driving to work the fair booth one Saturday in torrential rain, passing Denny's restaurant



Alex Moore and Johnson, owned by Ken and Glory Kluck, helped out at this summer's BGA Meet & Greet at Denny's, Amherst.

on Main Street and seeing Carolyn Pillard and a large group of BGA volunteers crowded under a tent in the parking lot.)

I want to pass on my sincere gratitude to all of you, and your greys, who helped make the summer of 2011 a big success for BGA. Your efforts are reflected in the number of families who have come forward to adopt a greyhound – or more than one – from BGA this year. BGA and all the greyhounds awaiting homes really can't do this without you!

I also want to take the opportunity in particular to thank a few of our BGA Board members who will be leaving the Board this year (in no particular order). Many thanks to Marc Kotarski who is finishing a two-year term as secretary. Marc's always positive approach and fresh ideas were admired by the Board and Marc has been a pleasure to work with. I look forward to volunteering with Marc, Tammy, Jackson and Jagger at future BGA events.

Thanks too to Mary Schreiner, who has served as chair of public relations and events for BGA for as long as I can recall. Mary and her stoic fawn, Toby, have probably clocked more hours at Meet & Greets than anyone in BGA history. They filled in alone at more hard-to-fill events than I can list. Both will be sorely missed.

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HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED A MEAT RAFFLE? IF NOT, JOIN THE FUN!

Annual BGA November Meat Raffle

Friday, Nov. 4 - Matthew Glab Post

1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna

Doors Open @ 6 p.m. - First Spin @ 7 p.m.

Admission \$5

Purchase 8 pre-sale tickets for a reserved table!

Admission includes pizza, beer & soda



A meat raffle is a combination of Bingo, a Chinese auction and Roulette. Purchase tickets for \$1 to \$3 per round. Each ticket has three numbers. If one of your numbers matches the wheel, you win a great meat prize! November prizes include seafood, hams, turkeys, roasts and more. Each round offers you three opportunities to win. There also will be special bonus spins and raffles.

***Get ready for the holiday season and support
BGA at the same time!***

Purchase pre-sale tickets by Nov. 1 by calling:

Carolyn Pillard - Cheektowaga/Midtown - 681-7928

Marc Kotarski - Cheektowaga/Midtown - 912-7797

Sue Murzynski - Elma/East Aurora - 655-0819

Jan Lingle - Hamburg - 866-1543

Christine Cotton - South Buffalo/Lackawanna - 827-8347

Gail Vaughn - Northtowns - 634-9686

Karen Galuszka - West Seneca - 675-1237

Irene Wood - North Buffalo - 875-8690



Checks made payable to "Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, Inc." may be mailed to Christine Cotton, 20 Alsace Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14220.

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Mark Your Calendar Now For Rally to the Rescue

Pro Plan Rally to the Rescue – an annual expo dedicated to pet adoption and related products and information – takes place Saturday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Tree Fire Hall, 4307 South Park Avenue, Blasdell. There is no admission fee.

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption will be among the organizations on hand, along with Piece of Heaven Kitten Adoption, H.E.A.R.T., Growls, All for Snowflake, Precious Paws Rescue, Small Pets – Big Hearts, Buffalo Pug and Small Breed Rescue, Messinger Woods (with a variety of owl species), WNY Citizens Against Puppy Mills, Camp Bow Wow, Cat Haven of WNY, and Lakeview Animal Sanctuary, with

Greyt Team (cont'd from p. 1)

I'd also like to thank Michelle Moore, BGA communications chair for the past two years. Michelle also has served on various other committees and as newsletter editor. Special thanks to Michelle for organizing our 20th anniversary events.

Last to Gail Riggs, who, like Mary, has served on the BGA board in various capacities for as long as I can remember. I didn't know Gail when I came on the board in 2007, but she immediately became a friend and mentor to me and her help and support was invaluable as I learned the ropes. Gail's experience and insight were invaluable.

But as one season ends and another begins, we have several greyt people who have agreed to run for board positions at our upcoming annual meeting and fill in for those who are leaving. I look forward to working with the new board and am confident that any of those running will serve BGA well.

If any of you are not voting members of BGA and would like to become one, I encourage you to do so. Becoming a member entitles you to vote in elections and run for office. New members are always welcome. After all, you may be the future of BGA!

Again, my extreme gratitude to all of our amazing volunteers for all your help this summer and my best wishes to all of you for a wonderful fall and holiday season.

Debbie

a fantastic petting zoo (weather permitting).

Participating vendors will include Pet Pantry and Wholesale Pet Supplements, Outback Kettlekorn, Invisible Fence, She's So Sweet Fudge and Jams, Pet Pictures with Hubbard Photography, Airbrush Tattoo Artist, Start with Art, Inc., Common Creations, and more. Also on hand will be Animal Communicator Rev. Alisa Parlette. (You need only bring a picture.)

At 12 noon, Messinger Woods will make a presentation on owl habitats and wildlife. Also on the agenda is a 1 p.m. presentation by Citizens Against Puppy Mills.

Rally to the Rescue has something for everyone ... pet adoption services, a Chinese auction, homemade baked goods and candy sales, a prize wheel with a prize for every spin, raffles, a tee shirt sale and holiday stocking stuffers, as well as unique gift items.

Refreshments will be available, including hot and cold beverages.

Don't miss Pro Plan Rally to the Rescue!

WELCOME TO THE PACK

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

Mitch Armitage

Jake Byczkowski

Anubis Cotton

Katie Czapla

Hermes Diemer

Gwen Greig

Kirk Hammond

Navi Mergel-Mazenauer

Molly Thauer

Gabriel Zawacki



So Many Ways to Support BGA ...

BGA LOTTERY TICKET SALES: Tickets will go on sale in December for January, 2012 daily drawings. The cost of each ticket is \$5. If you would like to purchase or sell lottery tickets, please contact Dave at theheckmillers@aol.com. Please consider assisting BGA with this endeavor by directly purchasing lottery tickets, or by making a commitment to sell five lottery tickets on behalf of BGA.

BGA IS IN NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE! The lottery and other fund-raising activities and events help to keep our adoption costs relatively low. If you are willing to sell lottery tickets for BGA, please contact Dave Heckmiller at theheckmillers@aol.com. Interested in assisting BGA with fund-raising activities? Then, please contact Gail Vaughan, BGA fund-raising chairperson at tbvaughan@roadrunner.com. Please consider volunteering for an event that you have never participated in before. Volunteering for an event for a short period of time (only one to two hours) can truly make a difference in the life of a greyhound!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: BGA will hold its 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Lily of the Valley Banquets, 2379 Union Road, Cheektowaga. A cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner. Cost is \$22 per person. Please RSVP by Monday, Nov. 14 to Carolyn, 681-7928 or Michelle, 393-3268. Or send your check payable to "Buffalo Greyhound Adoption" to BGA, PO Box 1096, Cheektowaga, NY, 14225.

BOWLING FOR BGA: BGA's Bowling Extravaganza will take place Sunday, Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. at Infant of Prague Parish Center, Cleveland Drive, Cheektowaga. \$12 a person includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental and pizza. (It's a Bills bye week, so what better way to spend a Sunday afternoon?) Please RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 20 by calling 393-3268.

FREE ISSUE OF CELEBRATING GREYHOUNDS MAGAZINE: Do you know someone who has opened their heart to adopt a senior (age 7 or older) or special medical needs greyhound? If so, they are eligible to receive a free copy of *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*. All that they need to do is send an e-mail to editor@adopt-a-greyhound.org with the following information: a description of the greyhound's special need and age, the name of their adoption group, and the adopter's name and mailing address. *CG Magazine's* purpose is to provide information about greyhounds as a breed. For more information, to go www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/cgmagazine. Yearly subscriptions are priced at \$25 for four (quarterly) issues.

GOURMET COFFEE SALE: New Day Coffee Roasters is again teaming up with BGA to offer delicious gourmet coffee at reasonable prices. New Day Coffee roasts the finest beans from all over the world. Coffee is available in whole bean or pre-ground for your convenience. You can order a single pot, two-ounce bag for \$1.75, a 12-ounce bag for \$8.50 or a 16-ounce bag for \$10.

SINGLE ORIGIN COFFEE: Ethiopian Natural Sidamo (chocolate aftertaste), Guatemalan La Laguna (hints of citrus and milk chocolate), Flores Bajawa Ngura (caramel and dark chocolate flavor), Bali Blue Moon (organic), Sumatra (fair trade), Nicaragua Selva (direct trade Rainforest Alliance), Papua New Guinea (mild flavor), Peru Cacvra, and Brazil Alta Mogiana (superior quality).

BLENDED COFFEE: Morning Blend (mild), Rise and Shine (a little bold), Dark Night (rich & full bodied),



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Welcome to the Pack!

Newly-adopted greys and their families enjoyed a party July 22 at the home of BGA President Debbie Doxey. It was a "greyt" time to socialize, get to know other BGA families and share tips and ideas on making your new dog part of the family.



... Bubble Baths, Gourmet Coffee & More!

and Half Caf (1/2 Brazil regular and 1/2 decaf).

FLAVORED COFFEE: English Toffee, Caramel Delight, Double Chocolate, Cinnamon Hazelnut, Hazelnut Supreme, Sticky Bun, Jamaican Me Crazy (rum, vanilla, and fudge), Skier's Delight (hot chocolate and marshmallow flavor), Sugar Cookie, Chocolate Raspberry, Coconut and Cream, French Vanilla, Rocky Road, Almond Amaretto, Bananas Foster, Mudslide (chocolate and Kahlua flavor), Blueberry Cinnamon Crumble, Orange Cream, Irish Cream, and Rainforest Crunch (buttery vanilla and caramel flavor).

Please place your order(s) with Karen at 675-1237. Seasonal holiday flavors also are available. Please call Karen at 675-1237 to place your order or for more information.

CHEEKTOWAGA GARAGE SALE: BGA held its second annual Cheektowaga Garage Sale on Sunday, September 11. \$405 was raised thanks to your generous donations. BGA would like to thank Larry and Carolyn Pillard for host-

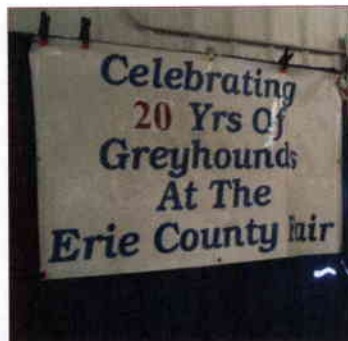
ing this event at their home again this year.

BON TON COMMUNITY DAYS: BGA will participate in Bon Ton's Community Days. BGA will be selling coupons at Bon Ton's Southgate Plaza, West Seneca store on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 12 noon to 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m., and Thursday, Nov. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. Community Days take place on Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12. If you would like to purchase a Bon Ton booklet or volunteer, please Contact Jan at 866-1543.

HOLIDAY JEWELRY PARTY: BGA will hold a holiday jewelry party on Sunday, December 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Warehouse Accessorized, Transit and Maple Roads, Williamsville (in the Tops/Marshall's Plaza). Come see the wonderful jewelry and accessories at this event. BGA will receive 10 percent of all sale proceeds.

NIAGARA CANDY SALES: If you are interested in purchasing or selling Niagara candy bars, please contact Jan at 866-1543. BGA receives 50 percent of all sale proceeds.

Celebrating 20 Years at the Erie County Fair



Buffalo Greyhound Adoption celebrated its 20th year at the Erie County Fair in 2011 with a booth for the full 11-day duration of the fair. Surrounded by a group of young admirers is Cupcake Caputo, with her owner, Connie Caputo.

Aloha BGA!



It was a BGA luau on Sunday, July 17 at the Lily of the Valley Banquets, Cheektowaga, as BGA held a Hawaiian Summer Chicken Barbecue. Pets and their families enjoyed great food, games and time spent with BGA friends!

What it Means to Be A Foster "Mom" or "Dad"

Author Unknown

Fostering is very rewarding. I was given this poem when I first started fostering many years ago and puts the entire heartfelt experience into words!

To My Foster Mom/Dad ...

There I sat, alone and afraid,
You got a call and came right to my aid.
You bundled me up with blankets and love.
And, when I needed it most, you gave me a hug.
I learned that the world was not all that scary and cold.
That sometimes there is someone to have and to hold.
You taught me what love is, you helped me to mend.
You loved me and healed me and became my first friend.
And just when I thought you'd done all you do,
There came along not one new lesson, but two.
First you said, "Sweetheart, you're ready to go.
I've done all I can, and you've learned all I know."
Then you bundled me up with a blanket and kiss.
Along came a new family, they even have kids!
They took me to their home, forever to stay.
At first I thought you sent me away.
Then that second lesson became perfectly clear.
No matter how far, you will always be near.
And so, Foster Mom/Dad, you know I've moved on.
I have a new home, with toys and a lawn.
But I'll never forget what I learned that first day.
You never really give your fosters away.
You gave me these thoughts to remember you by.
We may never meet again, and now I know why.
You'll remember I lived with you for a time.
I may not be yours, but you'll always be mine.

Lost Dog Pager: 888-615-7340

Please take a moment to save the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA) Lost Dog pager number on your phone. And remember, never hesitate to call the number if your dog is lost. BGA will immediately dispatch a search team to help you out.

Farewell My Friend ...

Kramer

Too Tall Randy
Armitage

Bacchus
N's Bongo Benji
Domenech

Lady
Greek Lady
Freiderich

Star
Hammond

Pumpkin
Pumkin Power
Murzynski

Sisko
Sisko Rules
Schultz

Gracie
Rakey
Thauer

"Not the least hard thing to bear when they go from us, these quiet friends, is that they carry away with them so many years of our own lives."

John Galsworthy

Keeping Your Greyhound Safe

We have visions of our Greyhounds following us around while we move from place to place, while working in our gardens, walking on the beach, or hiking in the woods. These are lovely fantasies, but they should never become realities unless our loyal, royal companions are in a fenced area or attached to leashes. Even highly-trained working law enforcement dogs have been known to bolt and be killed while on duty. Often, instinct is more powerful than training.

The vision of a Greyhound loose on the beach reminds me of a time when cries of "Suzi's loose! Suzi's loose!" echoed across the beach front in Dewey Beach, Delaware. Hundreds of greyhound-owning people who were attending the annual "Greyhounds Reach the Beach" event scampered around looking for her, hoping to catch her. As everyone knows, a loose greyhound is a greyhound who likely has a date with injury or death sooner rather than later. In this case, everyone knew Suzi Waddell wasn't in any danger. Suzi was 17 at the time and was simply tottering around the beach, sniffing the seaweed with her owner at her heels. We were just having fun with Suzi.

On the other hand, here are a few examples of true, not-so-amusing scenarios that occur repeatedly. "Our foster dog escaped while someone was looking at him and considering adopting him."

"My Greyhound is afraid of thunder. He panicked, jumped through a window and climbed the fence to get away from the storm."

"Our mailman rang the doorbell. When I cracked open the door to take the mail, our greyhound pushed the door open and ran away. I didn't realize that a greyhound could get through a slightly-opened door that easily!"

"We were walking our dogs when a loose dog charged us. One of our hounds backed right out of his martingale collar – the 'safe' kind – and ran away. We found him waiting for us at home a half-mile away. He knew the route home because we walk it every day."

The list of escape scenarios is endless but not to worry. Recognizing that "stuff happens" to even the most careful greyhound owner, taking a few simple precautions will reduce the possibil-

ity of your greyhound escaping to almost zero. The most common escape route is a door, gate, or window that's slightly opened. Most escapes are made by newly-retired foster or recently-adopted Greyhounds. All these new retirees know is that an open door, window or gate is much the same as the starting gate at the track; they may think that opening means RUN! Fresh off-the-track greyhounds know nothing about cars, highways, traffic, or even how to get back home if they are lucky enough to be unharmed. To them, "home" is the track kennel. Disoriented greyhounds whose adoptive owners may not even know their kennel names run full speed to nowhere.

Sometimes greyhounds who've been in homes for years will decide to run out the door, too. Although these hounds will also be in danger from traffic, they will often know the way home if they've been walked or driven around the neighborhood.



Here are some suggestions for escape-proofing your greyhound so he or she doesn't become a member of the "Runaway's Club."

Escape-Proofing While Outside

As soon as you adopt your hound, have it micro chipped. Tag collars (buckle or breakaway or a loose slip over-the-head type) while in the house or when on the road are added security. Reserve properly-fitted martingale collars for leash use. The extra loop that makes them wonderful for leash-walking is what can make them deadly in the house, crate, or yard. Dogs have been hung by the extra loop when wearing them while no one is supervising them.

Always go into the yard with your new newly-retired Greyhound, even if it's fenced. Every dog is different; you have to watch and learn from each one by observing behaviors. Once you learn what each dog is capable of/interested in doing, especially near the fence, you can proceed with preventing escape by making your yard even more secure if need be.

Fence in at least one yard with a sturdy fence a minimum of four feet high; six

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Keeping Your Grey Safe (cont'd from p. 7)

cure even the narrowest openings; greyhounds can squeeze through unbelievably narrow spaces.

Lock the fence gate with a brass padlock; brass doesn't rust. Keep the key inside your home. Greyhounds are quite capable of flipping up an unlocked chain link gate latch in the blink of an eye. Other slide-and-hook-over latches are available and work well, but a lock is best.

If your dog is a climber or a jumper, avoid chain link fences. Get a high, solid panel fence with no cross members that allow getting a foot up.

If your dog is a digger, place stone or concrete under the fence.

Keep lawn furniture and equipment away from fences. They make excellent jump-over-the-fence points.

If you have no fence, a leash is mandatory – always, even if obedience-trained. Greyhounds have remarkably poor recall because of their ability to focus on whatever has their attention. Their intelligence and independence can be their downfall when their focus isn't on the owner.

Check to see if your dog's collar is properly fitted. Greyhounds can easily back out of poorly-adjusted martingale collars. The material on properly-fitted martingale collars also stretches over time, so those collars do need to be checked and readjusted periodically.

When walking your hound, place your hand through the leash loop, wrap the leash around your wrist, and hold the leash firmly. Allow a bit of slack between your hand and the dog's neck so the dog will not feel like you have a stranglehold on him. If the hound is startled, hang on. You will not be able to run after and catch your loose Greyhound. If it gets loose, do the opposite of what you want to do; do not chase.



Keep house and vehicle windows opened no more than 6." Greyhounds have been known to escape through partially-opened car and van windows and doors. They can even push house windows open if they get their needle-nose underneath.

... To be continued in the next issue of *Off Track Pets* ...with tips for escape-proofing inside your home.