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Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
Established 1991

Summer 2013

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The Beloved Story of a Black Grey: It's No Myth ...
and much more!

Why We Love - And Adopt - Greyhounds My Three Amigos

by Cindy Naughton

Three greyhounds from the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption group adopted me around 2 years ago; The first adopted me in March 2011, #2 in April 2011 and #3 in July 2011. With the exception of grade-school and high-school, I have not had dogs.

I'll never forget how excited I was when Sue Murzynski said she would be over to introduce one of her foster greyhounds to me. I invited my mother, sister, and brother-in-law over for the meet and greet.

I watched out my dining room window as the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption van pulled into the driveway; I was beginning to get very excited. Sue and Dick (her husband) got out of the van; followed by two beautiful fawn dogs in fancy collars and fashionable snuggly's. I said to my sister "I hope it's one of them."

(Later, I learned that they were Angel and Pumpkin – two of the dogs that had adopted Sue and Dick). Then a third dog emerged. A large brindle, with a relaxed demeanor and confident stance. My heart began to beat with

excitement and I turned back to my sister and "I *really* hope it's that one!"

And it was...His name is Derrick. After Derrick adopted me in March,

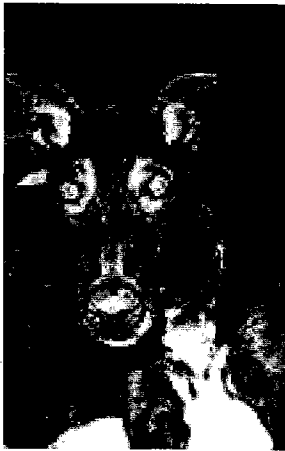
Sue called a few weeks later to advise me that his brother Shawn had retired from the racing world. Shawn had found his way to Derrick and adopted me as well. Fast forward another month and I get yet another call from Sue. Brian, Derrick and Shawn's other brother had retired and decided to make WNY his retirement spot. In walks a dilemma (cont'd on p. 5)



Dispelling the Black Dog Myth

Written by Gloria Ross in loving memory of Jett (06/01/01-04/06/13)

I'll start simply by saying that my husband Terry and I fell under the "greyhound spell" just like all of



you. We first saw a group of greyhounds at a mall and couldn't believe how sweet, quiet and well-be-

haved they were.

"Had to be a group of their best dogs" we both said. Then we saw a group again at a "meet & greet" at a local Petsmart. Hm-mmm. Different group of dogs, same thing. We saw BGA again at the fair. Now, I'm a cat person but these dogs seemed just like big cats (we had two). They were so docile and quiet - loving any kind of attention. Something I surely could handle.

Terry always had dogs. I really wanted to do this for him. We filled out an application.

Sue Murzynski invited us to one of the bubble bath fund raisers to meet some people and their dogs. Oh my gosh! A room filled with the friendliest people and at least 15 dogs. It was so quiet - not a bark. Lots of chatting, petting and by the time we left I could not wait

until we got our grey! We had our interview and passed. We were so anxious that we indicated that we had no preference as to male or female, age or color (thinking this would make things go faster!). We were told it might still take a month or two. We could hardly wait. We immediately bought a huge crate, feeding station, dog bed and even books. All the things we thought we'd need.

Then, unbelievably, Sue called in just a week. She already had a dog for us! A large black male. Although I was still happy, I couldn't help but admit that would have been my absolute last pick!



A male? So big? Black? What are the chances? I guess I was guilty of being one of those black dog "snobs."

But on the evening of November 12, 2005 when Sue and Dick brought that big, goofy black boy into our house, I fell in love. His name was "Molotov Joe" but his foster *(cont'd on p. 7)*

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So Many Ways to Support BGA

MEET & GREETINGS

1st Saturday of the Month
12 – 4 p.m.

McKinley Mall
3701 McKinley Pkwy.
Blasdell NY

Use the Food Court entrance.
BGA is located on the Barnes &
Noble corridor.
To volunteer, please contact Sue,
716-635-0819 or [suehappytails@
aol.com](mailto:suehappytails@aol.com).

2nd Saturday of the Month
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Pet Supplies Plus
2952 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Amherst NY

To volunteer, please contact
Kathy, [tarashorty@
yahoo.com](mailto:tarashorty@yahoo.com).

**4th (and 5th) Saturday of the
Month**

10:30 a.m. – 3:20 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 Ju-
lie, 716-417-1648 or
[handbellgal@
msn.com](mailto:handbellgal@msn.com).

ALSO COMING UP

Saturday, June 1
12 – 5 p.m.

**Black Dog, Second Chance
Dogs are Family Too!**
4225 Harlem Rd.
Amherst NY

Saturday, June 8
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Crabapple Festival
Cheektowaga Town Park
Harlem Rd., Cheektowaga NY

Saturday, June 8

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
**The Farmer's Market at the
Williamsville Mill**
56 E. Spring St. (off Main St.)
Williamsville NY

Saturday, June 29

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Bark in the Park
Clarence Town Park
10405 Main St.
Clarence NY

Sunday, June 30

BGA Bubble Bath
Camp Bow Wow
2131 Grand Island Blvd.
Tonawanda NY

Bring your dog for a bubble bath,
nail clipping, ear cleaning, ban-
danna and treat.

To volunteer or make an
appointment, please contact Sue,
716-655-0819 or
[suehappytails@
aol.com](mailto:suehappytails@aol.com).

Saturday, July 13

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
**Clarence Hollow
Farmer's Market**
10717 Main St.
Clarence NY

**Saturday, July 13 &
Sunday, July 14**

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Cheektowaga Family Days
Cheektowaga Town Park
Harlem Rd.
Cheektowaga NY

(cont'd on p. 6)

Welcome to the Pack

Welcome to these
greyhounds who are recent
BGA adoptees:

Drew Breen

Jackson Butler

Kasha Holoski

Evan Luce

Peaches Pearson

Cash Ross

Smokey Schreiner

Cannon Thauer

Open Your Heart - and Your Home - By Fostering a Greyhound

Are you interested in fostering
a greyhound? It's the first step
in a grey's transition into their
forever homes.

"We can give more greys
loving forever homes if we have
more available foster homes,"
notes BGA Adoptions Chair Sue
Murzynski. "It's one of the most
fulfilling things you can do for
a new greyhound. Yes, it can be
tough to give up a foster dog,
but they stay forever in your
heart."

For information (including
plans for an upcoming seminar
for prospective foster "parents")
please contact Sue at 716-655-
0819 or [suehappytails@
aol.com](mailto:suehappytails@aol.com).



Get to Know Your BGA Board of Directors

Meet Julie & Mike Maciejewski

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 Rack Pets introduces you to your BGA board members.



Communications and special events are critical when it comes to the success of any organization, especially a non-profit group like Buffalo Greyhound Adoption. The two roles go hand in hand – and so do Julie and Mike Maciejewski, the husband-and-wife team who serve BGA by leading its communications and events functions, respectively.

Julie grew up in Winter Park, Florida and met Mike, a Cheektowaga native, while he was going to school at the U.S. Navy base in Orlando. They have been married for 34 years and moved back to Western New York when Mike's enlistment was up in 1982. They have two grown sons. Greg lives in Virginia with

his wife, Megan and their three children, Ashlyn, Brooklyn and Rian. Like his dad, Rob serves in the U.S. Navy and is stationed at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Maryland.

The Maciejewskis first applied to adopt a greyhound through BGA in 2000, but came to realize that the dog they had at the time did not relate well to the greys. They subsequently got a second dog, who did well in a multi-pet situation, so after their first dog passed away, they reapplied to adopt a greyhound.

“We saw BGA at Walden Galleria shortly after losing Jade and that pretty much sealed the deal,” said Julie. “Sasha (the couple's surviving pet) did well at the home visit.” And the story ended well: Kandi, now seven years old, joined the Maciejewski family in November 2007. Her “big sister” Sasha, a shepherd mix, will turn 10 this summer. Julie noted that Sasha is the “mother hen” for the greyhounds that she and Mike foster as part of their BGA work.

Julie and Mike began fostering greyhounds in 2009 and “have really liked getting to know other dogs that come to BGA,” said Julie. She noted that she's often thought of adopting a second grey, but for now “fostering has satisfied my craving, but not on a permanent basis. We look at the foster dogs as our grand-

children coming for a visit – and then they go home. We've come close to ‘failing’ a couple of times, but really enjoy seeing our fosters with their forever families at various BGA functions.”

The Maciejewskis joined the BGA board as Communications Co-Chairs in 2011. Recently, Julie took over the role of Events Chair. “It has been a learning experience being on the board and we have enjoyed getting to know other members of the BGA family,” said Julie.

Julie is active in the music program at Pendleton Center United Methodist Church, where her passion is hand bells, which she has played for nearly 30 years. Mike is a golfer and a lifelong Buffalo sports fan. The Maciejewski family has lived in Lockport for 28 years.

Heartfelt thanks to Julie and Mike for helping to make BGA



Julie Maciejewski calls her and Mike's current foster greyhound, Teddy (the brindle on the right), “a very happy child who loves toys of all kinds and likes to play in the yard. He generally wants to be where he can see you or see what you're doing. He would be a wonderful addition to the right forever family. Could that be you?”

Why We Adopt Greyhounds: My Three Amigos (cont'd from p. 1)

for me – do I adopt *three* dogs? Well the obvious answer to that is “yes, why not; what’s one more dog?” When I stopped by Sue’s house to visit with Brian, she also had another foster there, her name was Myrtle, a white and black greyhound. Myrtle’s eyes said to me, I know that Brian is one cute fella, but I’m going home with you!!!



Sue assured me that she had a wonderful family in mind for Brian, which helped to make the decision of taking Myrtle and not Brian a bit easier.

Since getting all three of the dogs, my life has changed for the better. Each one of them, Derrick, Shawn and Myrtle, have their own distinct and unique personality. Derrick is the (dog) master of the house and his domain, he’s quiet, col-

lected, thoughtful and confident. He is happy in a group or on his own. He is also very playful. If it squeaks or has fur on it, Derrick must own it. He also has no issue with counter-surfing right in front of me. Although the minute I say his name in a stern voice to get down from the counter, he does so immediately. I call him “The Perfect Dog”.

Shawn is a bit more on the nervous side and is skinny as a rail, no matter how much he eats. I call him Bill Bones Baggins. He’s nervous and shaky on hardwood and tile floors, he won’t climb the stairs without help, and he’s needs a step to get into the car. He is also a barker. He barks at other dogs, when people come to the front door, or when his brother and sister are skillfully mastering the hardwood and tile floors, as if signaling to say to them “wait for me” (although I’m not going to come because I’m afraid of the floors)!

Shawn is a great instigator of play and one of the more playful of the trio. His preference of play is outdoors in the yard with his sister. The squeaky furry things don’t interest him as much as the outdoors and running with Myrtle.

Lastly, Myrtle. She is an incredibly playful, happy, energetic, adventurous and curious dog. She’ll be four in July and still plays like she’s a puppy. She is also a foodie – she will eat anything she can get her paws on. I call her my little Hoover. It doesn’t matter if it is fish food, cat food or my food. If it falls from the counter to the floor, Myrtle is there to suck it up. She sticks by my side like glue too. If I get up from the couch, she has one eye watching my every move. If I head for the door, she’s up and at my side ready and wanting to go with me. She is definitely bonded to me; not as much as she is bonded to food, but bonded nonetheless.

I often think of Brian as well and what the house would be like with a fourth greyhound. It is very comforting knowing that Brian is enjoying his WNY retirement spot with a terrific family that I hear often, loves him dearly.

What a difference all three dogs have made in my life. I wake up to wagging tails, good morning barks and sometimes even sloppy kisses. How is it even possible to have a bad day when each morning starts like that?

Lost Dog Pager: 888-615-7340

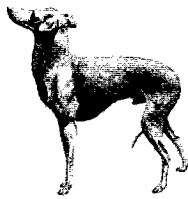
Please take a moment to save the Buffalo Greyhound Adoption Lost Dog Pager number on your phone.

Enter your phone number followed by the # sign. Remember: Never hesitate to call. BGA will immediately dispatch a search team to help you out.

So Many Ways to Support BGA (cont'd from p. 3)

**Thursday, Aug. 1 –
Saturday, Aug. 3
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Annual BGA Garage Sale
244 Towers Blvd.
Cheektowaga NY
Donations needed!
No clothing or books, please.**

**Wednesday, Aug. 7 –
Sunday, Aug. 18
Erie County Fair
Bazaar Building
The Fairground
Hamburg NY**



**Sunday, Sept. 22
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Annual BGA Picnic
Como Lake Park
Como Park Blvd.
Lancaster NY**

**Saturday, Sept. 28
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Farmer's Market at the
Williamsville Mill
56 E. Spring St. (off Main St.)
Williamsville NY**

Unless otherwise noted, to volunteer or for more information on the above events, please contact Carolyn, 716-681-7928 or lpillard@roadrunner.com.

Farewell My Friend ...

Flounder
"Whistler's Gable"
Butler
Sweetart
"NXS Sweet Tart"
Caputo
Hanna
"Pa's Tali"
Cybalski
Pablo
"DK's New Design"
Gallivan
Duncan
"Hot Foot Doug"
Gatgen-Smigel
DaVinci
"Big Daddy Dave"
Hojnowski
Shine
"Slot Car Brian"
Jankoswski
Robin
"Robin Ronin"
Lingle

Harley
"Dbulls Harley"
Malone
Sarah
"Rido's Sherry"
Malone
Stitch
"Super Chief"
McKeen
Reggie
"Restrictor Plate"
Metallo
Gracie
"CRT Shiraz"
Newman
Jet
"BWB Molotoff Joe"
Ross
Ant
"Swap Some Stock"
Szcepanski
Shannon
"Ja Shann Onapow"
Stokłosa
Midnight
"O Ya Midnight"
Winant

Yummy Dog Treats: Sardine and Cheese Balls

*Makes approximately 300
(25 dozen)
(recipe can be halved)*

6 eggs
6 cans sardines in water
(undrained)
1/4 cup vegetable or safflower oil
1 cup shredded mozzarella
2 cups quick rolled oats
3 cups+ all-purpose white flour

Mix sardines, eggs and oil. Stir in cheese, then oats. Add flour a cup at a time, mixing thoroughly; continue to add flour gradually until dough becomes stiff.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll dough into bite-size small balls (dusting dough and hands with a bit more flour can make this easier) and flatten into cookies. Place on baking sheet covered with foil (treats can be placed closely since they don't spread during cooking) and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes, then lower heat to 300 and continue baking for another 20 or 30 minutes until treats are crunchy/dry (not spongy in the middle) and slightly toasted. Let cool completely, then store in freezer up to six months, or fridge for a week.

Alternative to rolling all those little balls, roll dough flat to between 1/8" and 1/4" thick, then score into 3/4" squares with a knife. Bake until dry as above.

Dispelling the Black Dog Myth (continued from p. 2)

mom said he didn't answer to it or his call name from the track, so we renamed him "Jett." He quickly took to his new name. He was the *best* dog. Okay - I know. They all are!

When he came he was four and a half years old and adjusted to our home beautifully. He'd just trot to the door when he wanted to go out, loved to go for rides in the car, loved going out to lay in the shade when I'd do my gardening. Jett just liked being with us, being pet and getting treats and attention. Every single night, when we'd go to bed, he'd walk through the house, as if checking that all was well, get a drink then come into our room, whimper for a "good night pet" then lie next to our bed and fall asleep. He may have looked fierce but

he was just a big goof. Our Big Goof!

After about a year and a half, we succumbed to "chipping" as it's known. We wanted to get a pal for Jett. I sat on the edge of the couch and whispered to him (I really did this!) "I hope your sister is going to be as good as you are because you're the reason we're doing this". Not to worry.

Piper, a "bounced" 6 year old brindle female joined us and they were pals from the get go.

She was, and is just as perfect.

Jett had a great racing career. When he first came to us, he could run speedy laps in the yard.

But as he aged, he lost most of

his teeth and arthritis started to slow him down. Last week our big goof slipped on the linoleum floor and suffered a horrible fracture in his left shoulder that proved what we had long feared. His bones were weak and brittle. He was suffering from bone cancer. Given his size and age, prognosis wasn't good. Since Jett was already sedated and peacefully asleep for the x-ray, we said our tearful goodbyes.

We sobbed all the way home from the vet. "Never again" we cried. It has made our home so quiet and solemn. Piper is still looking for him.

Four days later we called Sue for another dog. But, this time *it has to be black*.

2013 BGA Expo is Bigger & Better Than Ever



The annual BGA Spring Expo took place Sunday, April 14 at the Big Tree Fire Hall, Blasdell. There were many new vendors this year, including more rescue groups for a total of 24. The Chinese Auction featured a record 64 baskets and the Silent Auction included an original oil painting by one of our own BGA members, as well as an autographed Buffalo Bills jersey. Many members donated baskets, and local businesses and other greyhound vendors from across the nation took part.

"Turnout was tremendous this year, the aisles were packed with people and the vendors were very pleased. We had many, many greyhounds in attendance along with other breeds," noted BGA Vice President Christine Cotton.

**Buffalo Greyhound
Adoption, Inc.**

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www.b-g-a.org

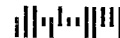
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Permit 4248



**Donate Cans &
Bottles to BGA**

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption needs your empty beverage cans and bottles! Please consider bringing them to upcoming BGA events including the Bubble Bath on Sunday, June 30 or the Garage Sale being held Thursday, Aug. 1 through Saturday, Aug. 3. (See our calendar of events for more information on these and other upcoming BGA events.)

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Keep Your Pets Safe!

The Animal Poison Control Center is available 24/7 to help your pet.

Call **1-888-426-4435**.

For more information, visit
www.aspc.org.

(A consultation fee may apply.)

To order a free magnet, call
1-888-426-4911.



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

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

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

