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Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
Established 1991



Summer 2014

In this issue:

Two Greys with a Special Bond ... And One Looking for the Right Forever Home ... Summer Volunteers Needed! All This and More!

Be a Member of BGA - And Be Involved!

There's a lot going on at Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA) as we move into the second half of 2014.

Adopting a dog through BGA does not automatically make you a voting member of our organization. There's no membership fee – and becoming a member enables you to vote and if you are interested, become more involved as board member or office holder. Your input and contributions could be invaluable as BGA continues its legacy of more than two decades of success in finding “forever homes” for greyhounds.

Also, please help BGA maintain its mailing list by sending all updates, including your email address, to our web site at info@b-g-a.org. (Membership requests may be sent to the same address.) BGA is currently exploring the possibility of making Off Track Pets available via email, so watch for future updates.

Last but not least, please consider getting more involved with BGA as a volunteer at our upcoming summer events including the Erie County Fair (see page 5) and area farmer's markets (see our list of meet and greets on page 6). By volunteering at the fair, you earn free admission for the day!

Contact any one of our BGA board members (see page 2) for more information. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Coming Up: BGA Summer Garage Sale!

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's 2014 Garage Sale is set for Thursday, July 31 through Saturday, Aug. 2 at the home of Ken and Glory Kluck, 244 Towers Drive, Cheektowaga.



BGA is seeking gently-used donations for sale. Clothing and most electronics are not accepted. Our goal is to top the success of last year's successful sale, which netted more than \$900 to support BGA.

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

Otis and Zeke: Brothers Forever

by Ashley Farrell

Every retired racer comes with a story. Little did I know that the greyhound we would end up with would have a story so unique that it, at the same time, would be extremely rare.

My family and I went to the Erie County Fair and saw the greyhounds and that was it ... I knew I wanted one right then and there. We talked about it and agreed to submit an application for adoption and see where it went. We submitted the adoption application about a week later and after a little while we had our home visit from BGA. The first time we saw the dogs in our house, it was a little bit of a shock how large they actually are because they don't look that big when they're in a mall or at the fair. After the visit, I couldn't wait to get our greyhound, but knew that because we already had an Italian greyhound, we may have to wait a bit longer to find a dog tolerant to little animals. We were wrong Exactly two weeks after the home visit, we had our dog....our Zeke.

When BGA brought Zeke home to us on that Monday night in September, we already knew that Zeke was retired a few months prior because he had broken his rear right leg. I remember being sad that the dog we were getting had fractured his leg, but luckily for Zeke, it wasn't bad enough to require surgery and the bones healed on their own. Little did

we know that before BGA left us and Zeke, we would find out that his biological brother, who had broken his rear right leg, in the same exact spot, was recently adopted by a couple in Hamburg.

Unfortunately for Otis, his break was too severe to heal on its own and needed surgical repair. He came to Josh and Jeannine with a wire in his leg. When I found out that Zeke's brother was in town, I wanted to get in touch with Otis' owners. It took longer than I had hoped, because poor Otis had once again fractured his leg stepping off the patio and was on his way back to Wheeling, WV for another surgery.

I heard from Josh for the first time in early December with pictures of Otis and a note saying that he would be coming home to Hamburg about 10 days prior to Christmas. As I read Josh's email, all I could think was how sad it must have been to adopt this sweet, loving dog and then have to give him up, albeit temporarily, almost immediately.

Then I opened the pictures he sent. WOW! These dogs are spitting images of each other. One of the pictures showed Otis and Zeke together, and as I discovered in the email, they were reunited about a week before Zeke came to us. Josh said that they remembered

(cont'd on p. 7)

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Looking for Her Forever Home: Meet Velvet

by Sue Murzynski

If you have ever considered a fun, young, lovable, playful greyhound as a companion to your "fur family," then Velvet may be the perfect dog for you.

Velvet is a 14-month-old, strikingly beautiful, black greyhound. She weighs less than 50 pounds, but has an awesome personality to make up for her small size. Velvet's "Fur Mom" sat on her as a puppy and broke her back leg. But, she is well healed and it does not deter



Velvet from racing around our backyard playing with our greyhounds.

Welcome to the Pack!

Welcome to these greyhounds, who are recent BGA adoptees:

Teddy Flynn
Cookie Kammerer/Martell
Sure Taylor
Boomer Zeck

Velvet never raced and is more puppy-like in her personality and behavior. She is very smart and learning manners through structure and routine. She responds well to a "no" command and is gaining confidence by following our greyhounds around. She especially loves to rough house with them.

Any kind of "toy" amuses this funny girl, from stuffies, rubber balls, laundry and

even toothbrushes still in the carton! Yes, she tolerates and almost enjoys having her teeth brushed. Velvet loves attention and will reward you with many affectionate kisses. She is even a smiler and a wonderful "roooooer!"

This happy, fun loving, little girl prefers company in the same room when she is in her crate.

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.



Therefore we prefer to place her with another greyhound for companionship. She does bark if she needs to go outside or when she is hungry.

Velvet is not cat safe, but has been totally fine with our long haired dachshund, Fudgey. She was successful with kid testing, but would do better with children over the age of five since, she is so playful.

Velvet walks well on a leash, but loves having a fenced-in yard to burn off her energy. Her favorite place to lay down is a large, thick bolster bed.

If you would like more information on Velvet or would like to meet her, please contact Sue Murzynski at suehappytails@aol.com or 716-655-0819.



Greyhound Statue Raffle Ongoing Throughout Summer



You can win this unique greyhound statue by purchasing raffle tickets at Buffalo Greyhound Adoption events throughout the summer – starting at the Bubble Bath on Sunday, June 22. (See below.)

Tickets are priced at \$1 apiece, six for \$5 or 15 for \$10. Or, purchase yours by contacting Sue Murzynski at 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.

We welcome new active members. Please consider getting involved!

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!

Do You Have a "Greyt" Story to Tell?

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



BGA on Instagram

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption has expanded its social media presence and is now on Instagram.

You can send pictures and announcements of dogs, events and other items to Caity Cotton at caitlinmary.cotton@gmail.com. She will put them up right away.

They also will be linked to BGA's Facebook account.

All Dogs Welcome ... BGA Bubble Bath!



Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's next Bubble Bath is set for Sunday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Paws in the Pantry, 652 ½ (rear entrance) Main St., East Aurora. Cost is just \$15 for a full "spa treatment."

For reservations, 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!

Greyhound Health Initiative Provides Education and Care Accessibility

If you have a greyhound or other sight hound living with you, then you probably already know they are not a "normal" dog - and you may also be aware that they have specific healthcare needs and idiosyncrasies.

The Greyhound Health Initiative's mission is to improve the health of sight hounds through the education of both sight hound parents and their veterinary healthcare providers about their unique medical conditions. They do this by giving lectures, presentations and in-service workshops throughout North America and Europe. They also offer medical consultations to veterinarians and owners either in person, over the phone or online.

The Greyhound Health Initia-

tive is working with sight hound adoption groups by providing direct veterinary care and funds and will continue our research into cancer and other medical issues afflicting greyhounds.

Through the generous support of our volunteers and donors we will continue to expand our services, take on more research projects and improve the health of sight hounds everywhere!

For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Greyhound-Health-Initiative/1583621001863839>.

The Greyhound Health Initiative Facebook page was launched during Greyhounds in Gettysburg on April 25 by its president and founder, Guillermo Couto, D.V.M.



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, get to know fellow hound lovers and make some 'greyt' new friends – your time, talent and skills are needed to help keep BGA strong.

Farewell My Friend ...



Betty (Prima Bodine) Annibali
Bailey (Blazin' Jesse) Argue
Fancy (Fanatic Fancy) Cooke
Kamie (Kimanchi Chris) DeBiase
Elisa (Chic's Frankie) Donovan
Sydney (C's Joltin' Sis) Doxey
Jake (Late Night Host) Kinsella
Frannie (DBulls Fran) Kowalewski
Akira (Akira) Martin
Erie (Cry Erie) Mazur
Bremme (Bremme) Munger
Zeus (Pa's Aloha) Prince
Piper (Katie V Sunshine) Ross
Rainy (O Ya Rainy Sky) Slisz
Jesse (Blazin' Jesse) Stevic
Obi (Obi Wan Kenobi) Taylor
Mindy Marie (Yopon Cat Sleep)
Wittmeyer

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.

Among the efforts you can become involved in are Meet & Greets (see below) 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 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 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 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.

Bark in the Park - Clarence Town Park, Main St., Clarence
 Saturday, June 28 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Vacation Bible School at Pendleton Center UMC
 Friday, August 15

Clarence Farmer's Market
 Saturdays: June 14 & July 12

Williamsville Farmer's Market (off Main Street)
 Saturdays: July 26 & September 13 - 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Otis and Zeke: Brothers Forever *(cont'd from p. 2)*

each other immediately and it was great to have them back together again. If it wasn't for the fact that Zeke still had his track collar on, there is no way I would have been able to tell which dog belonged where. It was at that moment I hoped that we would have the chance to bring Otis and Zeke back together again and stay in touch with Josh and Jeannine.

A few months passed without exchanging emails, but we were both busy, us with Zeke living the life of a spoiled-rotten greyhound and Josh and Jeannine with Otis recovering and beginning to be himself again. In mid-February, I found out that BGA would be hosting a Bubble Bath and was planning to take Zeke. A day after making the appointment, I received a surprise email from Josh updating me on the newest with Otis....telling me that unlike Zeke, he loves to play and put his entire face in the snow. The best part of that email, however, came at the very end, when I discovered that he would have Otis at the Bubble Bath and would be staying to reunite Otis with his brother.

I only had to wait a week to reunite them, but that week felt like months. Even if Zeke thought of Otis as just another greyhound, I still wanted to see Otis in person to see how much he looked like his brother (or his brother looked like him – Otis is the first in the litter) and to see if they had any of the same mannerisms.

Putting Zeke in the car on the day of the Bubble Bath, to him, was like any other car ride. We

opened the back and he jumped right in ready to go wherever the car took him. Zeke loves car rides, but gets up every time the car stops to look out the window and try to figure out why we stopped and how soon we'll move again. This happened more than any other trip because we were venturing further from home than usual with him.

After what seemed like an eternity, we finally pulled into Paws in the Pantry and opened the lift gate to let Zeke out. Again, he jumped right out and was ready to go. We opened the door to take him in and around the corner we found Otis and Josh waiting patiently for us. When I saw Otis he looked even more like his brother than he had in any of his pictures.

We took Zeke right up to Otis. I saw them look at each other and it was a look of immediate recognition. After so many months of being apart, the fact they seemed to remember each other was enough to make it worth the wait to reunite them. We gave Zeke and Otis time together to see if they would do anything. They didn't really venture far, and just stood next to each other and looked at spitting image of themselves in the other dog. At one point, their leashes were tangled and I couldn't tell which dog was mine. After Zeke got his bath, it was time to go home again. Otis was getting tired and we could tell his leg was starting to hurt from standing for so long, so we took the dogs into the parking lot to get back in the car. Trying to get Zeke in the car wasn't as

easy as when we left the house. I have never seen Zeke resist the car as much as he did then. It was almost as though he wanted to go with Otis and couldn't understand why he wasn't able to. Otis even seemed to want to come home with us too and Josh had to pull him away from our car and to his own.



We will be staying in touch with Josh and Jeannine and bringing Zeke and Otis together every chance we get. Since we've had Zeke I wondered what they're like around their siblings. Even though we have an eight year old Italian greyhound, Mojo, at home, Zeke's interaction with Mojo is far different than it is with his own, true, brother.

I know that our situation is uncommon in that it is not often for siblings to be retired and sent from the track for adoption by the same agency, let alone placed in a suburb of the same city. I would have been happy with any greyhound that BGA brought to us, but getting the chance to take Zeke and discover his exceptional story along with such a special dog has been something I will never forget. *(cont'd on p. 8)*

**Buffalo Greyhound
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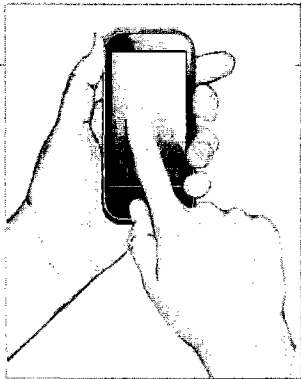
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Enter your phone number followed by the # sign.

Remember: Never hesitate to call.

BGA will immediately dispatch a search team to help you out.