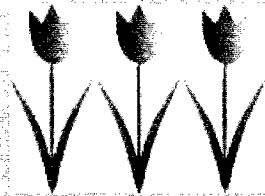




Visit us on the Web at
www.b-g-a.org



Off Track Pets

News from Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
Established 1991

Spring 2015 In This Issue: Spring Flower Sale Under Way ... Moving Forward To Support BGA ... A Loving Tribute

From the President: One Step Back, Two Forward

We never thought it would get here, but Spring has finally made it. We can look forward to more activities out in the fresh air. By now you've probably heard that our annual BGA Greyhound Fair & Expo had been postponed. The impending sale of the Big Tree Fire Hall precipitated that to happen. We knew the fire hall was for sale, we just didn't think (like most everyone) that the sale would happen so quickly. So now, we search for a new location for our Expo and we expect to have one set up for Fall.

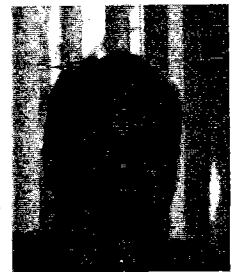
Our plans are to rearrange some our events, and spread them out to cover late Summer, and during Fall. We plan on holding our annual BGA Picnic either late August or the first part of September. The Expo will be sometime in October possibly. We do have one event that has a date and a location. It's the return of the BGA Meat Raffle. This will be held on Saturday, November 14th, at the Leonard Post VFW, located at 2450 Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga. A planning meeting for the Meat Raffle will take place Thursday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. at 12 Lucy Lane, Cheektowaga. Contact Carolyn Pillard at 716-681-7928 if you're interested in helping out.

We'll also continue having our regular monthly Meet & Greets at malls/stores. We'll be at vari-

ous town events, adoption group events, farmer's markets, and fairs. For more details on these events and all other happenings, check our Facebook page (Buffalo Greyhound Adoption), Yahoo group page (Buffalo Greyhound Adoption), Twitter page (@bflogreyhound), and our web site (either the new site, www.buffalogreyhound.org, or www.b-g-a.org, the old). Please consider coming out and taking part for an hour or two.

Any organization like ours is successful only because of the volunteers who are part of the group. Buffalo Greyhound Adoption

has a very good core of people who donate a lot of time to the group, but we need new people or new adopters to help out in any way they can. People who want to help as foster homes, booth captains, fund raisers are always a big help. With all the events coming up, there will be plenty of opportunities for people to spend some time learning more about our organization. We also have received a few dogs that may require being placed into homes that al-
(cont'd on p. 5)
ready have



BGA President
Mike Maciejewski

April Showers Bring ... Spring Flowers!

It's time for the 2015 BGA Spring Flower Fund Raiser. Choose from a large selection of colorful, nursery-quality selections from a local grower.

The price of our 10" hanging baskets is the same as last year: \$15 for fuchsia, ivy geraniums, dragon wing begonias, million bells and New Guinea impatiens, and \$18 for mixed plants.

Orders are due by Monday, May 18. To place your order, please call Carolyn at (716) 681-7928 or email Christine at cgcotton@yahoo.com. Plant pick-up will take place Thursday, May 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at 12 Lucy Lane, Cheektowaga.



Checks should be made payable to "BGA" and can be mailed to Christine Cotton, 10 Eagle Terrace, Depew, NY, 14043.

BGA Greys Walk Canalside



Fifteen BGA greyhounds and their families enjoyed a group walk in Buffalo's Canalside district on Sunday, April 19. See page 3 for more information on getting to know your fellow BGA member at our next Walk in the Park.

Grapehounds New York 2015

Love your grey? Love your wine? The Grapehound Wine Tour® - New York is a four-day event, featuring more than 20 wineries and a distillery, wine tasting, music, lakes, waterfalls, and a huge tent filled with vendors from a dozen states.

This year, Grapehound Wine Tour® - New York takes place Thursday, July 30 through Sunday, Aug. 2 on the shores of Seneca Lake, north of Watkins Glen. Headquarters are at Pompous Ass Winery.

For more information, call (717) 669-8723 or visit www.grapehounds.com/new-york.

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Welcome to the Pack!

Welcome to these greyhounds, who are recent
BGA adoptees:

Murray Cimato-Milligan
Tracy Dixon
Winnie Luce
Marvel Rodriguez
Guilliam (Will) Zawacki

Lace Up Your Sneakers! Join the Next BGA Walk in the Park

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's next Walk in the Park is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 at 7 p.m. at Burchfield Park, Clinton Street and Union Road, West Seneca.



BGA held its first Walk in the Park last November at Delaware Park and it was a great success. Plan to join us and get to know fellow BGA families.

BGA's November Walk in the Park at in Buffalo's Delaware Park was a "greyt" time for BGA families and friends.

Bob Evans Fund Raiser Set

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption benefits from 15 percent of the proceeds at the Bob Evans restaurant at 6543 Niagara Falls Boulevard on Monday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Please consider having a bite to eat at Bob Evans that day to support BGA. A fund raiser flyer is required in order for BGA to get the Bob Evans donation. Flyers will be available at all Meet & Greets until May 18, or you can get yours from any BGA Board member.

Volunteers are needed to hold a Meet & Greet outside the restaurant, preferably during the busy mealtime hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. Even if you can spare an hour or two with your dog, it's a "greyt" way to promote adoptions, fostering, and increased involvement in BGA.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Carolyn Pillard at (716) 681-7928 or lpillard@roadrunner.com.

Next BGA Bubble Bath is June 28



Buffalo Greyhound Adoption's next Bubble Bath is set for Sunday, June 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Camp Bow Wow, 31 North America Drive, West Seneca, 14224. Cost is just \$15 for a full "spa treatment."

For reservations, contact Sue Murzynski at 716-655-0819 or suehappytails@aol.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.



Farewell My Friend ...

Aidan (Fast Dave) Bauer

Jazzy (Race Name) Chapman

Joey (Joe's Package) Cervoni -

Gunner (Se Z's Masters)
DiStefano

Oscar (Sergeant York) Doxey

Evan (Everly Brother) Luce

Runner (Toot's Roadrunner)
Diskor

Heidi (Dangerous Stuff) Reese

Joanie (Plush Joanie) Siegrist

Amber (M's Amber Art) Wood

Gabriel (Silver Hot Rod)

Thank You Hodgson Russ!

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption received a donation of \$1,003 from the January 2015 Dress Down Day at Hodgson Russ LLP. The company reports that this total significantly exceeded the average funds raised.

Thanks to all who supported this event by donating baskets and prizes, which helped to put the day's totals over the top.

A Loving Tribute to Gunner

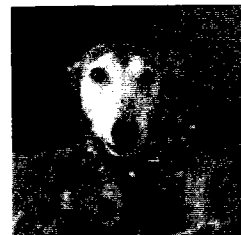
by Marie DiStefano

Our beloved big beautiful boy, Gunner (Se's Z Masters) DiStefano, left for the rainbow bridge on April 1.

Our entire family is heartbroken; he was such a special boy. Everyone who met him loved him instantly. He was with us for over 10 1/2 years and we were really hoping it would be much longer but unfortunately that horrible day came when he was running around in the yard and made a quick turn, yipped, and developed a limp that never went away.

I think we knew right then and there, but we held out hope that it was just a sprain, except it wasn't. He was one tough boy though. He made it two months past his diagnosis, which surprised everyone considering how far the cancer had already engulfed his shoulder bone, but the pain meds really helped him and he enjoyed all the extra attention until that day when he suddenly wouldn't take his medication anymore. No matter what we did, he spit it out. That's when I knew he was ready, the pain was too much and I couldn't watch him suffer, so we called Lap of Love and Dr. Schultz came out and very gently and lovingly sent him on his way, surrounded by his family that he loved so much.

He was my heart dog; the big alpha male, stubborn as a mule, full of life - I used to call him my big puppy because he always ran and played with the energy of one ... seriously handsome couch potato. He loved walks; in fact, if he was on his lead, there was no standing still. We tried to do Meet & Greets with him, but he didn't want to stand still long enough to let people pet him. He would keep gently tugging us forward so he could walk. Even this past brutally cold winter with his bad leg, we would put boots on him, a sweatshirt and his heavy winter coat and take him for his walks. It just broke my heart to see that limp, but he acted like it was no big deal.



Gunner
DiStefano
June 2002 -
April 2015

He loved going to fall craft shows because he could walk all day. Hundreds of people would come up to us asking about greyhounds and pet him and hug him; he was a great ambassador for the breed. I can't say he will be missed because he already is, but surely such love doesn't die and we will see him again.

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. 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 beabgvolunteer@gmail.com if you can help.

BGA Meet & Greet's Coming Up

Clarence Farmer's Market
Saturdays: June 20 & July 18
10717 Main Street, Clarence, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Contact Debdoxey@verizon.net.

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.

BGA Garage Sale Set for Aug. 6-8



The annual Buffalo Greyhound Adoption Garage Sale will take place Thursday, Aug. 6 through Saturday, Aug. 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 244 Towers Boulevard, Cheektowaga.

Donations will be accepted through Saturday, July 25 at 12 Lucy Lane, Cheektowaga and at 6709 Minnick Road, Lockport. No clothing, computers or televisions, please! Watch for more information!

Historical Greyhound Facts ...

The history of the greyhound parallels the history of western civilization. Records show that the breed has been with us for more than 8,000 years.

The only breed of dog mentioned in the Bible, the greyhound has inspired poets from the works of Homer and Shakespeare to the decoration of the Pharaohs' temples.

From the President (cont'd from page 1)

a dog. If anyone who has a dog is thinking about adding another to their family, please consider taking in one of these hounds. If you're interested in helping out in any way, call our voice mail (716-873-1165), leave a note on our Facebook page, or send us an email at beabgavolunteer@gmail.com. Until next time, hounds to you.

Greyhounds were the first distinct breed of dogs to be portrayed in art. In 6,000 B.C., Catal-Huyuk was a thriving city located in what is now southwestern Turkey. Among the drawings that emerged from the site's excavation is one of hunters pursuing a stag. Aiding them are dogs with long thin legs and bodies - the greyhound type."

-From "Reign of the Greyhound"
by Cynthia A. Branigan

Mike

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!

BGA on Instagram

Check out Buffalo Greyhound Adoption 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.

Do You Have a "Greyt" Story to Tell?

Please submit your stories or photos for possible use in the Summer 2015 issue of *Off Track Pets* to Diane Zwirecki by **Monday, July 6.**

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



**Buffalo Greyhound
Adoption, Inc.**

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NY 14225

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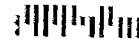
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So Many Ways to Support BGA ...

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 consider 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 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 & Rice food.

If you are interested in helping with trans-

porting greys from tracks to Buffalo, contact **Sue Murzynski** at 716-655-0819 or suehappy-tails@aol.com.

