



THE HOME STRETCH

GREYHOUND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010

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Catalog On-Line

Greyhound Friends' website
www.greyhound.org
 has a link to our catalog where you
 can shop for dogs and people,
 or call 508-435-5969 to order.

THE HOME STRETCH is a publication of
 Greyhound Friends, Inc.

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Open House

May 15th & 16th
 Noon - 6pm

Greyhound Friends, Hopkinton

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Happy Spring!

Greyhound Friends' staff, volunteers, and board members are looking forward to our fast approaching Open House/Reunion, May 15th and 16th, 12 - 5 both days. It is always extremely encouraging to see how happy the dogs look when they come back to visit. Given the large number of greyhounds who have been adopted from our shelter over the years, we see extraordinary characters - both dogs and people.

The Reunion is certainly a high point. I am pleased to hear from many adopters that when they are driving down Saddle Hill Road to get to Greyhound Friends, their dogs recognize where they are, wag their tails and realize they will soon see many people who cared for them. The dogs' regard is our reward. The returning alumni always seem happy to see other dogs. Open House is a greyhound's version of Old Home Day.

May brings two milestones - Greyhound Friends began on Mothers' Day, 1983, and we began leasing the Saddle Hill property from the Fitzpatrick Family on May 1, 1987. Adopters who came to our old kennel and are now coming back for their next greyhound are pleased with the "new" kennel. Even though we have been in this building for several years, it definitely still feels new...and is a major improvement.

Ben Hyman, who volunteers at Greyhound Friends' Second Chances Thrift Store, and has been a long-time adopter, mentioned to me that one of the things he likes about our newsletter is "that it tells the story"- the ongoing story of how this adoption program started, what has happened along the way, and what we hope the future will bring. Currently there is no permanent greyhound racing in New England. There is a seasonal meet at Lincoln, Rhode Island, but that will end in November. *However, many Greyhounds continue to race, especially in Florida where more tracks are currently closing!*

We just got in a broken legged boy, and Dr. Poling of the Holliston Animal Hospital has repaired the leg, and Manny will be ready to be adopted soon - a lucky dog. Greyhound Friends is able to continue helping dogs like Manny change worlds because so many people contribute to our work for greyhounds. There is a confluence of efforts and donations that create the forward momentum and keep the doors open; dogs in, dogs out. Our intention is a force buoyed by the good will of so many generous people. I am amazed at how many young people organize raffles, food and supply drives, and come to help at the kennel. These children are from Girl Scout troops, temples, after school groups and classrooms. In these hard times it is not easy - at all - to keep donations coming in. Major grants and gifts are our mainstay, and I am happy to report that three of our largest donors are our neighbors who know us well, one person giving our largest donation for 2009. I am sincerely grateful for so many people's heartfelt contributions, especially now since tracks are closing and an increasing number of greyhounds need homes.

The kennel is sometimes noisy ... lots of dogs asking for attention and people coming and going. I am reminded of James Joyce's sentiment that "God is a noise in the street". The life force barks.

Sincerely,

Louise Coleman
 Executive Director





GREYHOUND FRIENDS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Stoddard Melhado

Each Greyhound Friends Educational Outreach Program starts the same way. The children walk into the room, oohing and aahing as they see the five dogs awaiting them. Many are curious as they have never seen such large dogs and have never had a chance to meet a greyhound. The dogs are usually as curious, but each acts in a predictable way. Ernie sits and whines because he wants to get on with meeting the kids; Gill looks around, then flops to the floor, content to sleep until the action begins; Grady stands alert, flicking his ears up and down, as he is the newest dog to join us; Ailie flirts with the boys, often licking their faces; and Mira, the “little peanut” stands calmly looking at the audience.

The program grew out of Wellesley High School’s Seminar Day. Kathy Mahoney had attended with her dogs for a number of years. In March of 2009 she invited Ernie and me to join her. Our presentation was such a success (the students rated us the top seminar held during the day) that Kathy and I agreed that we needed to create a more formal program for outreach. With both of our backgrounds in education, the progression seemed natural.

The next big step was at a South Weymouth elementary school. A former adopter who teaches there invited us to attend a school-wide assembly. For a month the kids had been preparing for our visit and throughout the building signs that “the greyhounds are coming” were posted. That afternoon we met with over 300 students, making certain that their questions were answered, that each took a Greyhound Friends brochure home to their parents, and that every student who wanted to could pet a dog.

Last fall, Carla Kenney and Carol Burkhart and their dogs, Gill and Mira, joined us along with Grady, making our current complement of four humans and five dogs. Although we continue to be a work in progress, each program contains the same age-appropriate content. I give an historical perspective of greyhounds, the development of

greyhound racing, and the life of a racing dog. Kathy details the history of Greyhound Friends, our mission, and our international efforts – most appropriate as Ailie is rescued from Spain. Carol discusses the challenges, both humorous and serious, of bringing a greyhound into a home and the rewards of adoption. And finally, Carla adds a significant and moving segment for the children about the importance of being kind to all animals.

After the formal presentation, the fun truly starts, beginning with questions from the audience. We never know what to expect and the questions can range from a rambling story about a beloved pet (there must be a question in there somewhere) to “How do you tell the difference between a boy and a girl?” But most of the questions are perceptive and show that the audience has listened and is eager to learn more. Although we try to answer every question, we usually run out of time as we need time for the final component – meeting the dogs. The students and adults come in small groups, some shyly, most eagerly, and the dogs patiently try to greet each one. And even though they may get mobbed, the dogs love it.

As our program has expanded, our dogs have been in front of over 1,000 children and adults in the past year. And although we have been mainly in schools and after school programs, we are not limited to them and have attended Rotary meetings, church groups, and other organizations. We will visit any school, club, or group that holds a fundraiser for Greyhound Friends and/or a drive for our kennel wish list.

The rewards from the program have been numerous. Some students have brought their parents to the kennel to adopt after meeting our dogs. High school students have come to the kennel to volunteer after hearing about the work our volunteers do. Significant fund raising has been accomplished and many children and adults have learned about the special nature of greyhounds, the joys of adopting, and seen what incredible dogs they are. And finally, showing what wonderful ambassadors of get along dogs they are, the five education dogs have become best pals, always excited to see each other as we meet for a presentation.



On March 4, the education dogs received a special treat, attending a gala event at the Liberty Hotel in Boston hosted by NECN. The evening began with an hour long photo shoot graciously donated by Muddy Paw Studio, who were most patient with our sometimes uncooperative dogs -- they quickly found the corner of the room where the treats were hidden and only wanted to go there. Afterwards, we all went downstairs to mingle with the guests at the cocktail reception in the ballroom, the greyhounds doing their best to show what calm, adaptive dogs they are, exemplified by Ernie deciding to lie down and take a nap in the middle of the ballroom amidst the chaos. It seemed everyone there wanted a picture with a dog, including Patriots coach Bill Belichick, who posed with Gill and Mira. The dogs went home tired but happy, especially thankful for the special biscuits prepared for them by the hotel staff.

Because of the fine work of the greyhounds over the past year, the Education Outreach Program has been nominated for a Massachusetts Nonprofit Network Excellence Award for innovation. Regardless of the outcome, our dogs will continue to do what they do best – meet people and show them what amazing dogs greyhounds are, educate them about the need for adoption, and teach them about Greyhound Friends, our mission, and our needs.

To learn more about the Educational Outreach Program or to schedule a presentation, please contact me at: smelhado@comcast.net



SPECIAL NEEDS DOGS

Eliot - 5 years old

Eliot is an outgoing boy who is very interested in everything going on around him. He's very friendly and loves being with people. He enjoys playing in the fenced field too. Eliot is an energetic boy and gets very excited and jumpy when first let out of his kennel. Because of this, he would do best in a home with experienced greyhound or dog owners.



Mira - 7 years old

Mira is a very sweet seven year old girl who is a joy to be with. She will need a family with someone who can be with her a lot as she does not do very well by herself. She is calm and pleasant, but is best as an only dog. She is housebroken and home-acclimated. She's fine with older kids. Can you give this pretty redhead another chance for her forever home?

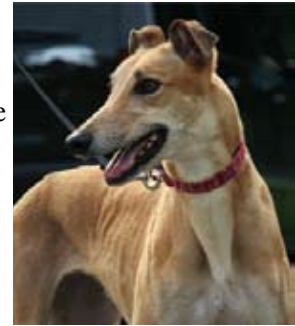


Photo by *Briana*

Sherry - 3 years old

Sherry is a nice three year old girl who is quite shy. With quiet encouragement, she came out of her kennel to have her picture taken, but was then quite scared. She'll need a quiet home with lots of love and patience to show her what a good girl she is. Once she's in a loving home and with time, she'll be a very sweet companion. Because of her shyness, Sherry would need to have a fenced yard and another confident greyhound (or dog) as a companion to learn from.



COMPASSION IN FASHION WITH NECN, LIBERTY HOTEL



WWW.GREYHOUND.ORG





New England Cable News' programs In-Style Boston and The Secret World of Animals teamed up to sponsor Compassion in Fashion at the Liberty Hotel in Boston on March 4th. Greyhound Friends was invited. The greyhounds.....and galgo who attended are members of our Educational Outreach Program. The dogs did wonderfully at this sophisticated event. It was a great opportunity for greyhounds to be seen in an elegant and fun setting.

Kathy Mahoney and her husband Bob and their galgo Ailie are in the photo to the left. Kathy and Bob are amazingly supportive of the work of Greyhound Friends.



Photo by *Bill Brett*

Photos by *John Mottern*



ANNUAL SPRING OPEN HOUSE

MAY 15 & 16, 2010

ANNUAL FALL OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2010

12:00 - 5:00PM

SECOND CHANCES THRIFT STORE

6 W. Central Street
Natick

Intersection of Rts. 135 and 27; Natick Center
Tuesday - Saturday 10 to 6

Second Chances sells clothes, glassware, china,
jewelry, lamps, books, odds and ends.

We are always looking for donations for the
store and for customers.

**WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEER HELP**

Thank you to all the store's supporters.

For more information call the kennel -

508-435-5969

WE'RE UPDATING OUR EMAIL MAILING LIST:

Greyhound Friends is in the process of up-
dating our friends contact list, especially to
include current email addresses. Won't you
please take the time to send us an email with
your up to date contact information includ-
ing your name, address, phone and email?

Also, in an effort to help reduce production
and mailing costs, we are planning to send
our newsletter electronically to those who
are interested and who provide us with their
email address. When you respond, could you
please also let us know if you would like to
receive the newsletter and other updates by
mail or email? Thanks!

Please send updated contact information to
greyfriends@yahoo.com.





THE MAIL BAG

-Emma-



Louise,

In 2001 I came to Hopkinton to find a greyhound to share my life with. You showed me many, but the first little tuxedo'd girl I saw with the lopped off ear and the funny overbite was the one for me, and no matter how many you had me take to the field and play with, I kept going back to her. You let me take her with just the promise I'd take care of her forever and a mile of paperwork and instructions for a 21 year old to adjust to life with a new best friend, Emma Whitelaw (though you may know her as Meadows Cordial [her racing name]).

In the years we were together she lived with me in Boston MA, Brooklyn NY, San Diego CA, Burlington VT, and to where we finally settled and currently live, New York City, as well as traveling with me to Chicago, Ohio, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and one whole cross country drive as well as multiple flights across the US. Needless to say, she saw a lot of great things.

She helped me become the responsible adult I am today, paving the way for me to be able to settle down and marry, learn to be responsible, and have two wonderful children. I thank you for taking a chance on a kid from Boston and allowing me to make one of the best friends of my life.

This morning she passed away in our home, quickly and (I can only hope) painlessly with my wife and two sons here with her telling her how much we love her. To say she will be deeply missed would fall short of meaning.

Here are some pictures of her lounging, being loved, playing in the pacific ocean, and generally being as awesome as I'll always remember her.

I've packed her bed, bowls, collars, leashes, jackets, and whatever else I could find in the house of hers and am shipping them up to Greyhound Friends in the hope that they will help to have someone else find the peace in life that Emma helped me attain.

Thanks for everything, it meant the world.

Darrell Whitelaw
New York, NY
February 7, 2010

SPRING DAYS AT GREYHOUND FRIENDS





Kennel photo of Naughty



Kennel photo of Naughty



Kennel photo of Doc



Kennel photo of Doc



Vet surgery



The Homeward Bound Hound Boutique

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

President:

Kathy Mahoney

Treasurer:

Veronica Zolina

Vice Presidents:

Stoddard Melhado

Veronica Zolina

Members:

Louise Coleman

Pat Hall

Ky Melhado

Secretary:

Cyndy Curley

KENNEL WISH LIST

- Bandages
- Bird Seed/Feed
- Blankets & Comforters
- Cleaning Supplies
- Carpet & Carpet Cutters
(we use for the dogs' kennels)
- Dog Food *(quality dry & canned: Iams, Eukanuba, and Pro Plan (preferred))*
- Laundry Detergent & Bleach
- Liquid Dish Soap & Pine Cleaner
- Office Supplies *(copy paper, pens, large & padded envelopes, tape, etc.)*
- Olive Oil & Rice
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo *(flea & tick for dogs)*
- Vet Supplies
- Visitors
- \$\$\$\$\$

TREASURE & FRIEND

Greyhound Friends is working on increasing the number of greyhounds adopted in the western part of Massachusetts. We plan on attending Longmeadow Days, May 22 and 23. There are already quite a few of our dogs in this area but with the large number of greyhounds in Florida needing homes - and coming back North - doing more public education seems like a positive development.



Greyhound Friends is also working with shelters and individuals in the Mid-West. There are often greyhound crosses in high kill shelters in this part of the country and we like to help as many as possible. As with the overseas dogs the goal is to help the individual dogs but also to increase public awareness of the plight of the dogs who have been purpose bred - usually to hunt - and are then discarded when they don't perform.

ESTATE PLANNING

If you are doing estate planning, please consider naming Greyhound Friends as a beneficiary of your will or trust. In the past years, a substantial part of

our funding has come from estates. We could not have continued our work and built the new kennel without this help.

WAYS TO DONATE

There are 2 ways you can donate money to Greyhound Friends; one is through a straight donation and the other is through purchasing an annual membership. With a straight donation, you can donate a one-time payment in any amount or set up a monthly recurring payment. Our annual memberships are set up in fixed amounts and come with a free gift.

We have restructured our Membership Program. To make it easier for our members to remember when their membership needs renewing all memberships will now be renewable in May of each year. Why did we choose May as the membership renewal month? Because that's the anniversary month of the founding of Greyhound Friends! New memberships are gladly accepted and encouraged at this time. If you are currently a member of Greyhound Friends, please take the time now to renew your membership by returning the form on page 11 or by completing your transaction via our online store.



Meeting of The Racers

Photograph by
John Mottern

This award winning 11x14 classic photograph makes a beautiful addition to any greyhound art collection or as a holiday gift. Proceeds go to support the efforts of Greyhound Friends Inc. a non-profit organization dedicated to placing retired racers with loving homes. This hand printed black and white photograph is available for \$25 and can be ordered from www.greyhound.org or by email greyhndfds@aol.com. Check, Credit Cards, Paypal are all accepted.

GREYHOUND



FRIENDS, INC

CHOOSE A LEVEL

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Greyhound Friends
167 Saddle Hill Road
Hopkinton, MA 01748
Attn: Memberships

OUR FAX:

508-435-0547

OUR PHONE:

508-435-5969

OUR WEB SITE:

www.greyhound.org

OTHER DONATIONS:

ADDRESS:

BILLING INFO:

**PLEASE ADD MY FRIEND
TO YOUR MAILING LIST:**

BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Please consider becoming a member or renewing your expiring membership today. Your membership dollars support ongoing rescue and adoption efforts that enable Greyhound Friends to transport, spay, neuter, inoculate, feed, and shelter close to 350 greyhounds every year. Part of the proceeds also pay for publicity to bring in a steady stream of adopters. Memberships carry no corporate responsibilities and are renewable each year.

"I want to become a member or renew my membership!"

Choose a membership level below and select a gift of your choice.



- \$30**.....Basic Membership (includes member card & decal, *Home Stretch News*, catalogs and other mailings)
- \$75**.....Basic Membership plus: Greyhound ribbon car magnet
- \$150**.....Basic Membership plus: *Meeting of the Racers* print
- \$250**.....Basic Membership plus: Greyhound Friends tote bag
- \$500+**.....Basic Membership plus: *Greyhound Tales* book
- Other**.....Please specify amount:_____
- No gift**.....Thanks, but you don't need to send me a gift

Land and Kennel Fund

I'd like to donate \$_____ to the land and Kennel Fund.

My Employer matches Charitable contributions

Employer:_____

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State: _____ Zip:_____

Phone (please include!):_____

Email Address:_____

Check (payable to Greyhound Friends, Inc.) Mastercard Visa

Card Number:_____

Name on Card:_____

Exp. date:_____ Signature_____

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State: _____ Zip:_____



167 Saddle Hill Road, Hopkinton, MA 01748

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Note that your membership status now appears on the right side of your member label.

If there is a mistake in your name or address of if you want to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.

Spring has *Sprung*



Don't just sit there! Come to Open House, May 15th & 16th