

Greyhound Action League of Buffalo

# GAL-ZETTE

Winter 2011

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Some of you may remember that Greyhound Action League began many years ago as a support organization to other greyhound adoption groups. Assisting where needed, GAL spent its infancy doing transports, raising funds and generating interest in greyhound adoption everywhere. It is that capacity that now serves us well as a fully fledged adoption organization. As the demands on adoption groups change almost yearly, it is GAL's ability to find new ways to help greyhounds in need that enabled us to meet the challenges of 2010.

By most accounts, pet adoption has decreased nationally during the last couple of years. This is a trend affecting most shelters and adoption groups of all types. Greyhound Action League proved no exception, and our local adoptions were not as numerous as we would have liked. It would have been easy to sit idly by, lamenting the external forces responsible. Instead of waiting for the phone to ring, however, we did what we learned to do years ago- we worked, we networked, and we got dogs into homes anyway.

While numbers don't tell the whole story, we either directly placed or played a major role in placing more than fifty retired greyhounds in 2010. A successful year, but we also grew in many other ways.

Our public appearances included most of our usual venues, and we added new locations too. Our booths at the malls, our speaking engagements, visits to schools and nursing homes continued to be staples of our community outreach. In 2011, we will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our booths, and look to maximize our time spent there. Improved presentation materials are being produced, and are on the way.

Speaking of presentation materials, our adoption videos reached new heights in 2010. Not only did they help our dogs locally, they received attention nationally. We know that many other adoption groups and individuals have reposted them, aiding their own adoption efforts. It is difficult to quantify, but it is good to know that our efforts are helping in regions beyond ours. Our videos also caught the attention of local media, and were the subject of stories about the production of them specifically, and our work with the dogs in general. Look for many more videos throughout the coming year.

The number of our foster homes grows, and their service continues to be, in a word, invaluable. Enough cannot be said about the efforts that make the group work on its most basic level. Creating great pets from retired racing greyhounds is what we're all about, and it starts with the difficult task of fostering. We can always use more foster homes, so if you'd like to help, please consider it, it is one of the best ways to help the organization.

Above all else, 2010 established Greyhound Action League as a resourceful and innovative organization. At the core of our group are great compassion and a work ethic that values every single contribution made to further the welfare of retired racing greyhounds wherever they may be. While we may assume 2011 will have its hurdles, we can be confident that by working together we will overcome them. After all, "Action" is our middle name.



**SIBLINGS: Luke and Silky were just two of the dogs that made their way to Buffalo in 2010.**

**Dewey Beach:** The GALS attended Greyhounds Reach the Beach as an adoption group in 2010. We had made several previous appearances as a support group, hosting nail clipping, memorial bonfires, tattoo contest and graffiti contests along with collecting collars for the Galgos.

In 2010 GALs Vended at the Rehoboth Fire Hall and were able to offer various items including lightweight fleece coats, greeting cards, tote bags and even catnip toys for our feline friends. GALs also offered nail trimming for the canines. The GALs would like to thank Kathy, Bob, Dawn, Niks, Nancy and Lori for volunteering their time.



**A BRAND NEW DAY:** The sun rises over the beach in October at Dewey Beach, Delaware.

**Wish Tree at Tractor Supply:** Tractor Supply in Alden was kind enough to allow the GALs to display a Christmas Wish Tree. The ornaments contained photographs of the foster dogs and contained special requests of various items for each one. We were pleasantly surprised at the outpouring of items purchased and donated by the loyal patrons of Tractor Supply. We received a variety of items including: dog food, biscuits, treats, various toys and dishes. Thank you to Tractor Supply, and its employees for supporting and promoting this effort. And thank you to all that purchased items and donated them.



**WISH TREE:** Our wish tree yielded many generous and useful donations.



**Pet Photos with Santa:**

In our third year with this worthwhile fundraiser, there is now a following of folks that come to support the GALs. Saturday was steady and Sunday was non-stop. What sets us apart from similar fundraisers is having a professional photographer with quality prints. One of the supporters, Nancy Shaw stated: "We had a blast yesterday with Ebony getting her picture taken with Santa. What a great photographer! The bonus butt scratching for Ebony was wonderful!! (Her words) and it was so nice to have a Santa that actually enjoyed pets. Thanks for the opportunity of our fur-kid enjoying a visit with Santa!"



**HUSKY FRIENDS: Santa auditions candidates for his sled team.**

A big thank you to our host Patty of Stapley Feed Center and also Nicole. We appreciate you allowing us to do this event. Also, we would like to thank photographer Mark Caughel, and Santa Doug E. for your talents and hard work. Additional thank you's to Dianne, Alli and Rhonda for your efforts and support. We look forward to the 4th Annual Pet Photos with Santa!

**Ebay Auction:** GALs recognized Cyber Monday as a good opportunity and used the internet to raise some additional funds at holiday time. The multiple auctions of unique items did quite well and we appreciate those of you that donated items. Thank you Toni, Diania and Greg.



**BRRRR: Our first Sunday walk of the year was a cold one.**

**Winter Walk:** Only in Buffalo would you find adventurous people like GAL supporters to brave the effects of Mother Nature. On an early Sunday morning in January, several people ventured out to enjoy a brisk walk with each other through Como Park. Heavy coats and even booties on the dogs were required along with the same attire for their owners. It was a good time and the dogs really enjoyed socializing together. Thanks to Tonya, Renae, Pillow, Joe, Natalie, Atlas, Jimmy, Red and Laura for being the brave ones!

**Jack Caruana** (MOS Jack B Quick) – This handsome fawn boy had a racing career in both AR and WV. The McCool's, his foster family found him to be a friendly boy that would appreciate a family with older children. Jack found just that, a friendly family who wanted to give him that special place in their hearts and home.



Jack

**Leoni Oster** (BF Leona) - Leoni retired out of Iowa this past Fall. A quiet and reserved girl, her foster parents the Empringhams felt she would enjoy a home as a second dog. She found the perfect place with new greyhound sister Dana. She enjoys her new- found retirement going for walks and relaxing.



Leoni

**Hutch Lewandowski** (Cry Hutch) – Hutch was a former racer in WV. He had a home in Buffalo, but sadly had to find a new family. The Lewandowskis were looking for a companion for their girl Raina and felt Hutch would be just the right match. He sure is a lucky boy and has already been seen with Raina volunteering at GAL info booths. Thanks to the McCool family for fostering him.



Hutch

**Crystal Kuppel** (Gable Skoal) – Crystal raced in WV and after breaking her hock in June, she made her way to Buffalo. After allowing enough time to heal she proved to be a friendly, happy and confident girl. Our thanks to foster families the Dunns and the MacDonalds. She is now a sister to her afghan brother Hank and being spoiled by her new family the Kuppels.



Crystal

**Luke Rohe** (JA's Red Glitter) – Luke finished his racing career in Ft Myer-Naples FL. His trainer was desperate to find an adoption group to take him in. Foster homes Empringham and Cole were kind enough to make room. He is a reserved, but smart boy and is enjoying his new life with brother Roni-Man. Every day more of his personality shines through like glitter!



Luke

**Dear MKB,**

My name is Daisy and I have a question. Mom is concerned because some days I don't eat at all, then the next day when I do eat, my stomach will gurgle and gurgle and then I get bad gas. What can Mommy do about the gurgley tummy and me not eating some days? What is causing my problem- am I just sensitive? It seems worse with beef and I really dont want to eat my dry dog food dry- I like wet food poured on it. If I get just dry, I just refuse to eat. Mommy is at her wit's end, any ideas? Oh, by the way- if Mommy offers me a little of her food like turkey then I gobble it right up. Maybe I'm spoiled?

*Daisy Rybolt*

**Hello Daisy,**

It sounds as if there are several issues to be addressed. Let's start with identifying that yes, Daisy...you are somewhat spoiled. It appears you have your mom well trained. Sure, if someone offered me a special food like turkey it is easy to gobble it up – might even be worth holding out for if your mom is a pushover. Without knowing if you are a free eater or if you are on a set schedule for feeding, it is hard to determine the cause of both the erratic eating patterns and the gurgle. Let us suggest

a few things to try: 1. Have a set schedule to eat, you get 30 minutes in the AM and 30 in the evening. Your food should be plain, dry food. Simple will help sort out the gurgle issue. Also, avoid any beef if you already know that is a concern. If you do not eat your food in the time allotted, it will be removed and you will wait until the next meal is served. That does not mean you get to snack on mom food in between – that defeats the purpose and can contribute to stomach upset. 2. Tell mom to relax. You are not going to starve to death in a matter of 48 hours by skipping a meal. You will eat when you are hungry and you will eat what is served and when it is served. As long as you are drinking water you will be fine. 3. Do you have any weight issues? Heavy or Light? That may also contribute to the issue. 4. Is your stool normal.? If not you want to take into consideration medical concerns – but again what is in your diet can contribute to abnormal stools. 4. Adding a tablespoon of canned pumpkin or plain yogurt may also help with the upset stomach. Start first though by simplifying the diet, ruling out medical issues before adding anything special. We wish you luck in securing a good, steady diet program.

*-Gracie & Hallie Jo*

**O**ver the years of learning about the whole process of greyhound adoption, I have come to realize a very important part of the adoption program. Yes, there are several steps followed before a greyhound is placed in its forever home. One very important step that I can admit I have taken for granted myself - fostering. Always saying I would “never” foster, but SO glad I have. Worried I would have a houseful of dogs because I couldn't let any of them go. Yes, it is a hard thing to do, but so rewarding when the dogs find their forever homes.

I have learned the process of foster-

ing is not to “pick out” your dog, but to help teach the dog about what it takes to truly become a retired racing greyhound. Yes, they are used to their schedules, and some of them still require it. Teaching the dogs that the crate is a safe place, laying on a fluffy pillow is ok, learning stairs (walking NOT leaping), etc. Just reassuring the dog that being in a home is a good thing and they don't have to work anymore.

Fostering is not - you, making a commitment to adopt. It is - you, helping the greyhounds transition from racing to retired.



## **GAL Glam Days**

Sunday, Feb 27th

Sunday, Jun 26th

Sunday, Oct 23rd

10am-3pm / RSVP for appt 867-9822

\$12 Shampoo, towel dry, ears & nail trim

All Breeds Welcome!

## **GALs Spring Gala**

Sunday, April 10th

11am-3pm

Save the Date!

## **Foster Seminars**

Sun, Feb 13th, 12pm-3pm

Fri, Jul 15th, 6pm-9pm

RSVP or Info contact Laura 867-9822

## **Wheeling Trip**

Sunday, May 15th



**OUR FUNNY VALENTINE:** Valentine was our special guest at Glam Day last October.



## **NOW AVAILABLE**

### **Lightweight Fleece Coats**

Perfect for cool days, riding in the car  
Or cold winter nites, small and large  
Sizes available for your hound \$18.

### **Lupine Pattern Collars**

1" widths available with assorted fun  
patterns of collar and  
4' matching lead set - \$18

### **Fleece Toys & Fleece Chews**

Handmade, soft yet durable  
Prices range - \$3.-\$6.

### **Designer Greyhound Collars**

Coming Soon! GALs will have a  
small inventory of fancy collars from  
a reputable vendor.



**Luna Kuppel** (Laura Buffalo) Luna began her retirement from MA as a sweet and quiet girl. She was adopted by an experienced, caring family seeking another greyhound companion for their Afghan. Luna was doted on, wanting for nothing. She truly blossomed as part of the Kuppel family. They are the kind of home you wish for any retiree. Cheryl wrote and said: “the only thing she knew for sure was that we give the dogs the best life for as long as we are allowed to share precious time with them and they give us so much in return”.



**Lyza Marie Jackson** (Saturn Girl) Lyza Marie was a retiree from MA. She was adopted by the Jackson family and soon became a greyhound sister to Saffie. They had recently relocated from NY to MA and were excited for their girls to have a large fenced yard to romp and play. “Mike and Heather are hopeful that Lyza Marie is up in dog heaven running around, eating grass and having a good time!”. Your Angel on earth surely does have her Wings in the Sky.

**Maple Empringham** (ZC Maple) 1/25/00 - 11/2/10 Maple came to us via Pittsburgh, PA - Going Home Greyhounds - March 13, 2004. Maple was reunited with his littermate sister, Zia and they became inseparable. Maple and Zia were happy to have each other as we were to have him in our lives. He was my “big goof” that could tell you everything with



those beautiful brown eyes. Maple loved his toys, especially the ones his siblings would play with, when they weren't looking he secretly stole them and hid them under his pillow. Our sweet boy....Maple, you are greatly missed every day.



**Sadie Knox** (Settling Down) After a long racing career, Sadie had a second job as a brood mom on a farm in OK. Determination and patience were some of the qualities she would pass down to her offspring; several of which retired locally. A true surrogate mom to Heidi she was quick to show her the benefits of retirement life. Sadie also played ‘mom’ to several GAL Foster dogs. She enjoyed visiting and playing with her pups Orbit and Wrigley and was fortunate to visit with them often. Her family said that Sadie was “quick to show off her love and passion for running she could still outwit the other dogs in the yard.” Sadie will carry that running spirit with her always.

**Scoop-Dog Rohe** (Gable Scoop) Karen wanted to share their experience as they sent Scoop-dog to the bridge on October 19th. He was diagnosed with OS on September 8th. A tumor, which started out the size of my thumbnail, quickly grew to baseball sized. He quickly perfected the three-legged hop / walk. His pain was constant, only controlled by Tramadol & Codeine and DQ vanilla ice cream. He was ready to leave us in early October, but John was in a bit of denial. I had a long conversation with Scoop-dog on Saturday night the 16th, asking him to please talk with his Daddy the way he talks with me, and let Daddy know he was ready to go. They had that conversation early on Tuesday morning the 19th. Scoop was more than ready, and now his Daddy was ready, too. Scoop left us to run pain-free at the bridge at about 10 o'clock that same morning. We appreciate everyone's prayers and white light during Scoop-dog's illness and your wishes for his peaceful journey. Our thanks, too, for the thoughts and prayers for me and John and Scoop's brother, Pepperoni, to help heal our shattered hearts. A kennel favorite of Trainer Wayne, it was requested that Scoop retire to an extra special home. He could not have found a more deserving family.



**Hank Bleckinger** (Pat C Headed) Hank was an incredibly handsome boy that needing rehoming through no fault of his own. Hank found his final home as part of the Bleckinger Family. "We were so blessed to have had him for the short four years we did. He was so special and unique. We will always love him and he will still be in his final, forever home with us." Godspeed Hank forever free you will be.

**Lightning Veltri** - After finding a large mass in Lightning's groin on Thanksgiving morning and the fact that he has been refusing to eat any of his favorite foods, we decided it was time send him across the Rainbow Bridge before the mass became painful and causing him to

suffer. Lightning was 13 years, 5 months old and was smiling and wagging his tail even on the final morning. Approximately seven years ago, he was diagnosed with small cell lymphoma in his tonsils and given a two year life expectancy at that time regardless of treatment or not. Obviously, he surprised us all with seven more years of a great life. He spent many of this past summer's weekends with Sam and me at my sister's house on the ocean in RI, walking beside me on the beach, about ½ mile every morning. Lightning was the last of Karen and Sam Veltri's pets, he was one of their former racing dogs. Karen stated that it was "The End of an Era". It has been a pleasure to know them and to assist placing several of their retirees in the Buffalo area.





**WHISTLER RED:** Red has continued to progress well with his healing. He uses his leg well and is slowly being introduced to mild play time in a fenced area. Red recently turned 4 years old. He is a happy greyhound with big grins, many kisses and loves to get attention from his humans. Red is cat safe and gets along well with other greyhound. He is curious and likes to instigate playing with the other hounds. He is quite strong and would be best in a home with a small fenced yard. Looking for a happy hound? Red is the one for you.



**ASSEMBLE:** this dark brindled dynamo has personality plus! An intense spirit with an equally competitive nature he would be best suited as a single dog so he can enjoy his human one on one. “Jimmy” loves to go for casual strolls and is well behaved on the leash. He is also a good traveler and does well in a car. He likes to entertain you by fetching a stuffed toy; one of his favorite things is a hardy chew toy. He is good in the crate and also cat safe. Jimmy has a keen sense of hearing and is willing to bark to let you know someone is outside. Quite the intellect, he would respect an owner with some dog experience. Bored with your life? Then he is the companion for you. Jimmy has been waiting a long time for just the right owner. He continues to be patient while hoping each day for just the right home, please spread the word about this special boy.



**MARINA RUN:** A Red brindle boy retired from IA is currently in foster care. This four year old is a friendly confident dog that gets along well with others. Runner crates and travels well. Runner is quite keen and needs a home without cats.

**ADOPTION PENDING**



# Dog Days



January



2011 Greyhound Action League

For the second time in as many years, Greyhound Action League has produced its own calendar. What began last year as a spur of the moment experiment has become a productive fundraiser and promotional tool for the group.

Our calendar differs from others of a similar nature in that the photos featured represent only dogs adopted locally, including many foster dogs.

The selection of photographs is always difficult, and great care was taken to pick those that flattered the dog(s), honored the breed, suggested a season and showed some variety when grouped with the others. We are pleased with the result, and we sincerely hope it provides a year's worth of enjoyment to all those that purchased a calendar.

We are already planning our 2012 calendar, and photos will be taken at our many events and meet and greets throughout this year. Besides the other good reasons for attending, please join us at a booth in the months ahead. By this time next year, your dog could be famous(ish)!



February



November



If New York State no longer issues dog licenses, who does? What does the change mean for you and your dogs?

As a cost-cutting measure, as of January 1, 2011, the current role of counties and the New York State Department of Agriculture in the issuance of dog licenses and administration of licensing will be eliminated. Instead, local governments -- counties, towns and villages -- will assume the responsibility for dog license issuance and the administration of all facets of licensing programs. Local government will also retain 100% of the funds created from license fees, other than surcharges dedicated to the "Animal Population Control Fund."

There are two items of particular concern for responsible dog owners: Beginning in 2011, dog license fees will become exclusively a matter of local policy. Municipalities or counties will establish fees without guidelines from Albany, and it is possible some fees may be set excessively high. Secondly, and the biggest concern to me as a pet owner & dog control officer is that the license that your dog is required to wear by law maybe difficult to track down because there will no longer be a statewide database. Each municipality will have its own database and it will require anyone trying to locate an owner for a lost dog to call the town clerk in the Municipality the tag was issued in. Most town clerks do not work after 5 p.m. or weekends. This makes it extremely important that your dog wears a tag with your name & current phone number. My personal advice is to purchase a few id tags, that way you have id available to place on different collars easily and quickly. Never let your dogs outside naked (actually even in the house- what if they get out an open door?)- Make sure they are properly dressed with a collar and current id information. The minute you spend dressing your dog, will save you hours of heartache later.



Patty Nicola recently sent us a short note and picture, which we wanted to share with all of you. We thought it incredibly sweet what she did after recently losing her greyhound Finley.

*"The photo attached is of Finley's toys that I donated to our vet who provides them to dogs in shelters, etc. I had to take a photo of them in the washer as I was getting them ready because they looked like they had little personalities as you looked down in there at them! I kept his 3 favorite ones as a keepsake. Fin was a little spoiled perhaps, but what fun to observe a dog who responds to squeak sounds!"*



February is Foster Month! This February we will be campaigning to the public for additional foster homes. "Open Your Heart and Home to a Foster Dog". You will see our special displays at GAL Meet and Greet this February.

We want to welcome Tonya Cole along with Joseph & Natalie Vanderbosch as new GAL Foster homes. Their support for retired racers is always needed and appreciated!

GAL Foster Seminars set for 2011: Sunday February 13th from 12pm-3pm, Friday July 15th from 6-9pm, please RSVP to Laura at 867-9822 if you would like or someone you know would like to attend. You do not need to be a greyhound owner to foster. Medical and food expenses paid covered by GAL. Additional seminars will be added as needed.

**We want to thank the following GAL supporters for their generosity: Patty & George Nicola, Gia's Gifts, Marilyn Johnson, Jane & Bob Munro, Lori Bagne, Herbert Caughel Family & Friends, D. James Black, Greyhound Rescue and Adoption Team, Greyhounds In Need of Adoption and CIGA.**

**TRAILER NEEDED**

GALs are in search of a 4'x8' utility flatbed trailer. Either to borrow or preferably for reasonable purchase. It needs to be road worthy, for a special project we have planned. If you have one, or know of someone that does, please contact Laura at 867-9822, Thanks!

We would like to acknowledge some GAL supporters that have recently become proprietors of their own businesses:  
 Card & Gift Boutique, 8605 Main Street, Clarence - owned by Bryan and Rhonda Knox.  
 Dirtyrugs.com - owned by John Rotolo "cleaning the ectoplasm out of carpets, one at a time"

OSB Members (One Step Beyond Skeptical Research of Buffalo & WNY) are stepping out of the shadows to support local not-for-profits. OSB Founder Ron Alessi has recognized that several of the team members volunteer with some valuable organizations including Juvenile Diabetes and the GALs. Ron has encouraged us to post our events to OSB message board and has suggested that any OSB Member that has some spare time consider volunteering if they can.

The GALs are looking forward to OSB assisting us at the Galleria Mall on Saturday Feb 12th from 1-4pm. We need as many available greyhounds there as possible. We will be focusing on promoting our foster program that day. "Open your heart and home to help a hound".