

Greyhound Action League of Buffalo

GAL-ZETTE

Summer 2009

INSIDE:

Summer A-Fair

Greyt Ride 2009

Event Reviews

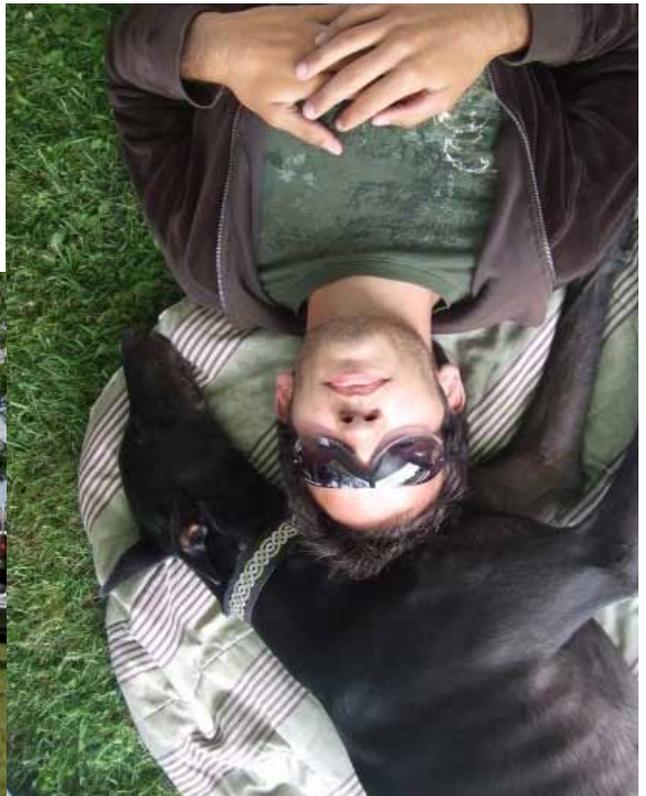
Adoptees

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GREYHOUND ACTION LEAGUE OF BUFFALO GAL-ZETTE

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There is a theory in the sales profession known as the “Seven Touch Rule”. It states that any entity selling a product or service must ‘touch’ or connect with a potential client seven times before gaining them as a customer. Now, I don’t know to what degree that is true, nor am I suggesting that we are or should be in the business of ‘selling’ greyhounds. What is certainly true is that at each meet and greet or public appearance that we do, we are selling a message *about* greyhounds.

For many people, myself included, their first exposure to the world of retired racing greyhounds was at the Erie County Fair. As a matter of fact, for me it took three Fairs and a speaking engagement before I turned in my first application for adoption. A short time later, I was a volunteer at the Fair, my dog George and I on the front lines in the battle for public attention.

For sheer volume, there isn’t another booth quite like the Fair. I don’t mind saying that at first I felt very intimidated by the waves of people that would engulf the booth, most with questions or comments. I would soon learn that, with some interesting exceptions, those questions followed a predictable pattern, and the majority of folks want to know similar things. The classics include:

- “How long do they live?”
- “How fast can they run?”
- “Can I request a color?”
- “Where are the bathrooms?”
- “How old are they when they finish racing?”

Several hundred small conversations later, I realize that some people we speak with are very serious about adopting a greyhound, some are on the fence,

and some never will. It is not always easy to tell which is which. If you believe the Seven Touch Rule, we may need to reach the undecided two or three or even four more times before they act. The important thing is that we are present to have the discussions. There is a cumulative effect to the information we distribute, and hopefully each person takes away a puzzle piece to his or her own particular journey. The success of our booth at the Fair is not in the number of applica-

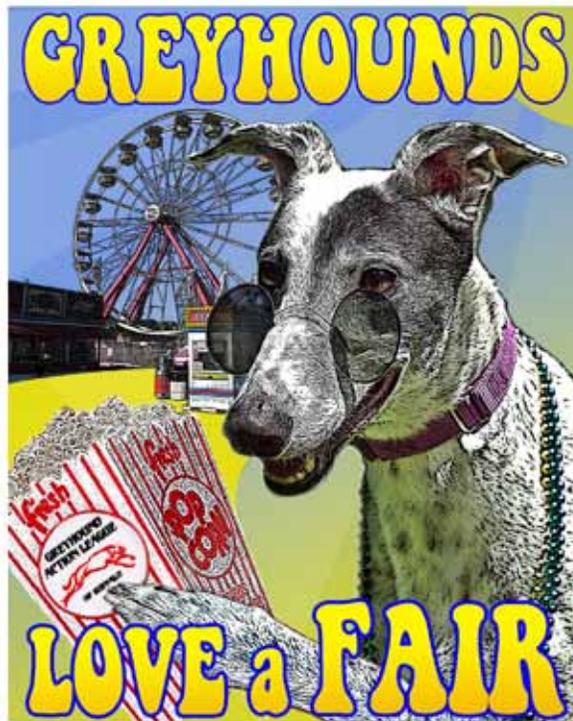
tions we may receive, but in the quality of the conversations that we’ve had. That is why, despite the difficulties inherent in appearing there, it is crucial that we do. We simply must be where the people are.

In twenty years of greyhounds at the Fair, it is safe to say that there is a level of expectation amongst the public. Seasoned fair-goers have probably pet our dogs, heard our message, or perhaps even contributed funds. The danger is, however, that a level of tolerance or immunity has also been built, and we have entered into a hearing but not listening relationship with the public.

To that end, we have been especially fortunate to have our booth (last year and this) within the generous auspices of the Erie County Historical Society. Our display

will showcase the history of greyhounds, the history of greyhounds in the area and the history of greyhound adoption in the area. It is a theme that not only meshes well with that of the Historical Society and the Fair’s, but also presents a fresh perspective of our organization to the public, deepening its appreciation for the breed.

If you’d like to volunteer at this year’s Erie County Fair, there may still be time to do so. If not, please consider it for next year. It is a truly rewarding experience.



BACK TO THE '60s: Our take on the Erie County Fair's "Summer Love A Fair" theme.



A HOG AND DOGS:
Robert Holland of Kenmore
poses with Mila and Marti
Lingle.

June 27th was a beautiful day and a wonderful beginning towards raising funds for the greyhounds. Motorcycle enthusiasts converged to spend their day riding along a beautiful scenic route and making stops at some popular places to take their chances at rolling the dice. Hosting the Start and Finish of this event were the Springville Travelers Motorcycle Club. Their enthusiasm and support for this fundraiser was evident by the response of their members. One of the first stops along the way was North East Vintage Cycle on Route 39 in Springville. Next stop was the Ellicottville Brewing Company. More beautiful twists and turns took you to Gowanda Harley Davidson. Several folks took advantage of the professional photographer on hand who was donating the proceeds to the GALs. The final stop on the run was back to STMC where folks were able to enjoy some good food and beverages.

A 50/50 split raffle raised additional funds. More than fifteen door prizes were given out thanks to the generosity of many area restaurants. Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Highest Rolls, along with Lowest Total Roll were distributed. Along with the trophies were T-shirts, gift certificates and handmade jewelry; part of the 1st place package was a gift certificate to Roadhouse Tattoos.

The participants had positive feedback for the GALs and we appreciate them all coming out and spending the day helping greyhounds.

A special thanks to GAL Volunteers Dale and Alli for securing this event, and our special thanks again to STMC for welcoming this GAL Fundraiser. Our appreciation to the GAL Volunteers for your continued dedication and hard work.

Due to the success of this event and overwhelming positive response we are currently working on a date for the "2010 Greyt Ride" and plan on making this an annual event.

Dear Mother Knows Best,

Recently while working at some Meet and Greets I heard my owner referring to me as 'fluffy'. This was followed by her running her hand down along my side and poking her finger in my last two ribs. Additionally I've noticed my owner has been stingy with the distribution of biscuits. I am just not getting as many as I used to! Any suggestions as to what is going on?

-*What The Foto*

Dear W.T.F.,

Sounds like your owner did not take appropriate care of you (not your fault) and allowed you to 'fluff' or 'puff' up a bit past

your ideal, two-rib-showing weight. Now, realize that this is a common problem with greyhounds that are middle aged. What I would suggest is that you talk with your owner, tell them how you feel and explain that you were on a routine and you were given the treats a certain number of times a day. It is not fair that they hold back. However, your owners have finally realized that they were doing you an injustice. So, I say compromise. Your owner should give you treats at the same time they always did, just reduce the size of the treat or even the type of treat. You know, carrot sticks do wonders for your figure and your eyes!

-*Mother Knows Best*



Dear Mother Knows Best,

I have brindle fur, my sisters have black fur and my brother has white fur. Which of us is the safest in the hot summer sun?

-*Bo*

Dear Bo,

Surprisingly, none of you are safe- at least without proper precautions. We all realize that dark colored or black dogs can overheat quite quickly out in the sun. They are easy targets for absorbing the heat of the sun, so it is important that they avoid excessive exercise and/or extended periods outside including high humidity situations.

The summer sun can also be dangerous for a light colored dog. Just like people, they can suffer from the not so healthy effects of the sun including painful sunburns. Please let your owner know that you really need to be protected from the direct rays of the sun.

Since greyhounds are short haired, they can be particularly susceptible to developing sunburn or

even skin damage. Here are some suggestions to protect yourself:
-Stay inside during the peak hours of direct sunlight between 10AM and 3PM.

-Have your owner fit you with a white t-shirt (something that breathes) to cover the majority of your body.

-Have sunscreen applied to your exposed areas particularly around the nose and eyes (using care) and along the tips of the ears and underbelly.

When choosing a sunscreen, select one with an SPF of at least fifteen and non-toxic. Avoid ones that have PABA or Zinc Oxide which can be toxic to dogs. To be safe use a sunscreen designed especially for dogs, if you are not sure check with your veterinarian.

Remember that prevention is your best defense. Also avoid walking on asphalt surfaces to keep from burning your feet and paws. Enjoy the remainder of the summer.

-*Mother Knows Best*

we're nostalgic already

GALs 2nd Annual Picnic

A balmy day spent inside a fenced acre with tents and trees for shade set the tone for a day of relaxing and grazing on delicious food. Being able to spend time with other volunteers and their dogs made you wish everyday could be so lovely. Thank you to the many adopters and volunteers that came and picnicked. And thank you to our hosts Alli and Dale.

St Casimir Festival

is a local celebration by that parish in the Clinton & Gorski Sts area. Folks in their community came out to enjoy the festivities and were very excited to see and learn about retired racing greyhounds. Thank you to the organizers for including the GALs.



Bailey Rose gets some love from Lee Hopper at the picnic.

Burgerfest

was buzzing again this year. The GALs were invited to partake in Animal Alley by Susan Ferry of Pawsitive Experience. Susan's expertise at hosting this worthwhile event is evident by its popularity. A continuous flow of visitors throughout the day kept GALs volunteers quite busy. We also enjoyed meeting Dr. Hite and her staff from Camp Road Small Animal Clinic.

GrapeHounds

was a fun out of town event at which the GALs participated. Many vendors throughout the country and Canada came to enjoy the sights and sounds of Seneca Lake and the local wineries. Despite a bit of rain the volunteers had a fun time.

Sunday Stroll in July

was hosted in the beautiful surroundings at Knox Farm. Several greyhounds and their owners took advantage of the beautiful morning to casually stroll the winding paths. This was a relaxing and pleasant day enjoyed by all. Consider joining the GALs at a future Sunday Stroll, it's a great way to socialize your dog.

Martins Fantasy Island

Adopt-A-Pet Event was a well organized effort. This June venue gave the GALs an opportunity to showcase their greyhounds along with other Animal Rescue organizations. Our hosts were supportive and gracious and the patrons enjoyed talking to the volunteers about retired racers.



Tractor Supply

Alden, Sat Aug 8th from 11am-3pm for their Opening. This is a new location for GALs so if you are able to assist please contact Marianne at 425.0382.



Tractor Supply

Springville – Hot Dog Sale / Meet & Greet Sat Aug 29th from 11-2pm. If you want to help with the food or bring your hound to showcase please contact Marianne at 425.0382.

Eden Corn Festival Parade

Sun Aug 9th. Lineup is at 11am, if you and your hound are able to join the GALs volunteers please contact Laura for additional info at 867.9822

Erie County Fair

GALs will be appearing at the Historical Bldg, Fri Aug 14 & 21st from 6-9pm, Sat Aug 15 & 22 from 6-9pm, and Sun Aug 16 & 23 10-1pm. There are a few spots left for helping out, you must RSVP for details on this, contact Laura 867.9822.

Stapley Feed

Saturday, September 5th from 12-2pm, Nail Trimming Fundraisers with Meet & Greet, Volunteers needed for trimming and holding... Please RSVP to Laura at 867.9822

Foster Seminar

Friday, September 11th from 7-9:30. Interested in learning more about the GAL Foster Program, RSVP to Laura at 867.9822 to attend. 214 Dean Rd, Depew

Lily Dale Stroll

Sunday, Sep 13th from 10am-4pm. Consider spending the day in a beautiful and inspiration place. Join others for a casual stroll and picnic lunch. Contact Laura for additional info at 867.9822

Glam Day

Sunday, Oct 25th from 10am-4pm. Schedule your hounds next spa treatment before appts are full, contact Jan at 866.1543. We will also have a professional photographer on hand if you are interested in having your pets portrait taken.



For A Tote

I took my hound to the dogsitter's
But had to bring him home
He didn't have the things he needed
To be allowed to roam
If I had only bought the canvas tote
For his muzzle, leash and collars
I could have had his stuff with me
And it would have only cost ten dollars



All proceeds go to GAL.

Visit our Web Site or Yahoo Digest Calendars for regular events at Galleria Mall, Pet Supplies Plus and McKinley Mall! Sunday Strolls and Incoming Dog Info are also listed, email: info@greyhoundactionleague.org

don't even blink. we're faster than you can imagine.

where we're going



Greyhounds will race today. It is an absolute certainty. Somewhere in the United States, United Kingdom or Australia, someone will place a bet on a dog, watch the race, and return home either richer or poorer. The dogs on which the bets are placed will eventually be put out to stud, be adopted, or be put down.

I've often wondered about the person placing a bet on me. What were the criteria of his decision? Was it my last race? Was it my color, gender or name? Was it completely at random? To him, I must be just a commodity, a thing to entertain. He couldn't possibly know my history.

I am the product of thousands of years of deliberate and directed breeding. My parents were both racing greyhounds, my father an exceptional runner. In the greyhound world, Males are usually bred based on their performance at the track while females are generally bred on the strength of their pedigree.

My grandfather was called Chevy Montecarlo and was the youngest race champion ever. My great, great grandfather was the legendary Downing, often referred to as the greatest racing greyhound.

Farther back, my pedigree is populated by some of the most famous names in greyhound racing. In 1905, it is Heavy Weapon; in 1875 it is Ptarmigan, and in 1820, Pilot.

Of course, that only encompasses modern greyhound history. My ancestry goes back much further than that. In fact, greyhounds have walked beside man for nearly all of recorded history.

Revered for their tremendous speed, eyesight and hunting capabilities, greyhounds were prized possessions of Egyptian Royalty. As man expanded his territory, we went along. For centuries, commoners were not allowed to own a greyhound. This was to prevent the poaching of game and thus spoiling the 'sport' for the wealthier class.

Specifically bred to outrun our prey, we had to make our own hunting decisions when released, making us self reliant and quick witted.

Our history has always been intertwined with man's, and there are numerous artistic, literary and historical references to prove it. From Cleopatra to Queen Elizabeth I, from Valley Forge to Custer's Last Stand, we have been a silent witness and faithful companion.

Early in the nineteenth century, 'coursing' events were established. Pitting two or more greyhounds against each other, dogs would race to a predetermined distance. This would eventually lead to the greyhound racing format that exists today.

When I think of the people at the cashier's window, placing their bets on the next race, they cannot know my history. They cannot know what my ancestors have done and seen and heard. If they knew, we would certainly be revered and appreciated, not exploited and disposable.



To read more about Baby Momma click [HERE](#)

we like you. we really like you

HIGH TIMES spent her short racing career in IA and WI. She opted to retire young and get started on life as a pet. She was fostered with her mom at the Pikes, then moved on to be fostered by the Knox's. Since becoming a good friend with their dog Sadie they decided to adopt and give her a forever loving home.



BONNIE was one half of the pair of hounds that were found abandoned and wandering last Summer. Bonnie spent time in the Kendall-McCool and Pike Foster homes where she was truly a favorite of both. She then moved on to be fostered by the Cole-Jankowski family who had adopted her partner Clyde. Well Happy endings do happen. Val and Eric have decided to permanently make Bonnie a part of their family. Bonnie and Clyde together once again!! We couldn't be happier for all of you.

XTREM SUPERSONIC had a long racing career partly in IA. Sonic was fostered by the Johnson's and was described as one of the nicest and sweetest dogs that everyone fell in love with. She is as smart as she is pretty. We were fortunate to find just the right home ready to give a lot of love and attention. Jemma as she is now known was adopted by the Caverno's.

GLS KOMAKAZI raced in WV. A beautiful, big, black boy he waited a long time for his chance at adoption. Fortunately for him his lucky day came in April when GAL Volunteers fell in love. This stoic fella is a true gentlemen in every sense. Fostered by the Mazur family they confirmed he was cat friendly. Kazi is now fortunate to be a part of the Paschen Pack.

GABLE SCOOP had a long racing career in both TX and WV. A favorite of Trainer Wayne he was considered an extra special boy. Foster Home Bagne-Hopper took quite a shine to this easy going character until he was placed in his forever home. Scoop Dog as he is now known was adopted by the fun loving Rohe's. Be sure to check out his blog [here](#).

GABLE SILK raced in TX and WV. She was a favorite of Trainer Cheryl who wanted the very best for her special racer. Silk was first fostered by the Lingle family and then moved on for fostering with the Smith's. Good fortune for Silky as she was reunited with her litter-brother Gabriel and now officially part of the Smith Family.

RICA CABECILLA spent her racing career in IA and WI. Opting to retire at the same time as her mom she was fostered at the Lingle's where she made herself very comfortable quite quickly. Quiet and quick this cutie is keeping her adoptive home on their toes. She has been given the pet name Sasha and is a loved member of the Sacilowski family.

Earlier this year Laura posted on the digest that the GAL would be planning a trip to Wheeling, WV to visit the racetrack, visit a puppy farm and, hopefully, a kennel. My excitement built through the next couple of months that I was finally going to get to see the type of lifestyle these loving, soulful dogs live prior to retirement. My first greyhound, Da's Bodacious (Mr. Bo) who is now 8 years old, raced at Wheeling before he broke his rear hock and was forced into retirement.

We arrived in Wheeling, and we were hanging out in the paddock area. Just seeing the dogs in their racing silks, and muzzled for the race and their excitement was enough to bring tears to my eyes - as I was about to see them in action doing just what they are bred and born to do ...RUN !!!

We watched about six races, each more exciting than the other, seeing them run, hearing their heaving breaths and seeing their paws just digging into the sand. They are truly majestic creatures.

Our next stop was the GPA adoption kennel in the track compound. All the hounds got excited because people had arrived. I think we all fell in love with every poor soul that was in there up for adoption. Some had been there for years just waiting for some adoption group to come along and pick him or her. Some unfortunately had been labeled as 'unadoptable'. Originally, our plans were to only bring back one dog from Wheeling, but all of a sudden, our fear-



GENERAL LEE: Please welcome the newest addition to the Lingle family - they met on this trip!

less "leader" went into dog mode! Within a short period of time, the wheels in her brain started turning and she had profiled a few of the hounds and those lucky few were about to shuffle off to Buffalo. I think every one of us would have liked to take one home for our own. I know that I wanted to take a big brindle boy named Willy back, but there was no room in the inn (SUV). Laura knew from experience (which I had none of) I was acting on impulse at the time and I am thankful for that.

Later, it was the race kennel of Wayne & Cheryl Piquette. Not all of us got to go in there, but I was among the lucky ones. Some dogs had just raced, some were racing the following day, some were done racing for good. It was an amazing experience seeing the dogs' 'home life'. The kennels were immaculately clean, well ventilated and the dogs looked fantastic. Their niece, Kim Hawkins, was busy mixing up the dogs dinner, which really did not appear to be too appetizing! Wayne, Cheryl & Kim were so informative in answering all of our questions and truly seemed to

share in our enjoyment of the day. I could tell they truly cared for each and every hound they own, which from what I understand, not many trainers do...the dogs are just a commodity to them. I know how hard it is to let go of foster dogs that have come through my doors that have tugged on my heart strings only for a short time; I can only imagine it must be worse for them when the hounds leave - off to a different track or to an adoption group. Well, we got our 'one' hound from the race kennel, which actually turned into 'two' as Laura and Wayne had been discussing another one who was finished racing. Both brindles...a female and a male.

The last stop of our adventure was Kim Hawkins' puppy farm. The puppies there ranged from 4 months old up to about a year who were ready to move on to Texas for further training for their potential racing career. Kim explained the different stages of puppy life, dog run size and what was entailed in that particular phase of training. Most all of us got a chance to go inside the puppy runs and play with the pups. They are little balls of energy and activity. At that point, all of us were full of activity and energy too!

We all had such a great time in Wheeling. Thanks to Laura for arranging this and giving us the opportunity to see the lives our "kids" lead prior to retirement. This venture has given me a whole new appreciation for the breed and knowing how they have truly earned their place in our homes and hearts!

happy to have a home, general-lee speaking

my visit to wheeling

jan lingle



Gable Tanzania is a stunning black boy weighing in at 79 lbs. At 4-1/2 years of age Tanzi had a long racing career spanning from TX to WV. He is an all-around type boy that is beginning to settle into pet life. GT may be best in a home with some dog background and desires a fenced yard for playing.



I'm Ticked is a retired brood mom to 11+ pups and a former racer. She recently celebrated her 8th birthday in June. Tick is a stunning Gal she is as diverse as her ticking. Greyhounds, Dogs, Cats, Birds and even Kids she pretty much gets along with everyone. She enjoys a dip in her wading pool and can be playful as any other pup. Sometimes vocal with her opinion she would enjoy a home with another dog.



Joe's Procedure is a beautiful and dynamic male. Pro demands and deserves his owners undivided attention. Tolerant of cats and courteous with other hounds he would be happiest as the Only Apple of your eye. He enjoys a dip in the wading pool and a small fenced yard to romp and play with stuffies to burn off his energy. Pro is very smart and asks for an experienced home. Please help us get him into his forever family before his 5th birthday this August. View his VIDEO.

Western Call is handsome black boy. Hoping to follow in the paw-steps of his five siblings he is a gentle soul with a nice sense of humor. He has a nice balance of playful and calm, truly a gentleman. He would be cat workable with an experienced home. Because of he is only 3 he would be best with a fenced yard.



WW Blow mea Kiss is a beautiful fawn brindle – heavy on the brindle. She is a retired racer and brood mom that just turned 7 years old this June. We feel Kiss would enjoy a home without dogs. Although cat tolerant she probably would rather not have to deal with them. She is a sweet as her name and Kiss is a very laidback, low energy Gal. She would be comfortable as a companion with a retired person.



Quite often we think of networking as one group working positively with another. There is also the invaluable networking within the organization. We all need to be able to learn to trust one another with different tasks. One of those tasks would be the placement representative selecting the appropriate foster dog as a match to an adoptive home. It can feel un-nerving to hand over a dog you've been fostering to another volunteer that perhaps does not know it as well as you. You may feel that you are the best representative on behalf of that dog. But that is not always the case. The focus needs to be the relationship between the adoptive home and the Rep. As a foster home we rely on your ability to communicate effectively the needs of the dog and completing the placement paper-



work with information that will be most beneficial to the adoptive family and the dog. Although on some occasions the foster home would be included in the placement of the dog, we tend to utilize the original team to handle the placement. The last thing anyone would want is the foster dog to be more focused on a foster parent than starting the bonding process with its new family. So as we continue to foster and place dogs, as volunteers it is our job to learn from each other and network for the best interest of the greyhounds.

Greyhound Planet

is an International Event founded by Therese Skinner in 2002. In recognition of this event focused specifically on the greyhound breed we have scheduled some exciting events:

Saturday, Sep 12th
12pm – 3pm

Information Booth with Original displays at the Walden Galleria Mall

Come join us with your greyhound (RSVP to Laura 867.9822) or stop and visit our volunteers.

Saturday, Sep 12th
6pm – 7:30pm

Join us at Knox Farms in East

Aurora for a nice evening stroll. This is open to the public and all breeds are welcome to participate with the GALs. Meet in the stone parking lot in front of the red barn. Walk begins at 6:15pm. Water for both the humans and hounds will be available at the end along with some sweets and biscuits.

Sunday, Sep 13th
10am-4pm

Join us in Lily Dale, Cassadaga NY. We are planning a casual stroll enjoying the grounds and community. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy the company of other greyhound enthusiasts. A blessing of the hounds is being planned. Please contact Laura at 867.9822 for additional details.

“O Ya Sharon”



A January 2008 pup owned by Gary W. Reicherts is currently racing at Dubuque IA. He named this dog in honor of Sharon Palm of CIGA who assists moving many of Gary's retired racers to adoption groups across the country. Because she is so young and we are not used to seeing dogs at this end of a career, we thought it might be interesting to follow her progress. Sharon has generously agreed to keep us updated.

She ran her first schooling race on Aug 2nd and came in 2nd place.

Casey Steiner (Racey Casey)

Was loved by Jerry and Adrienne Steiner for more than eight years. On July 31st, their beloved brindle boy crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. He was one of the Duke dogs of Florida. He was a wonderful part of their family.

Molly Duke (N's Golymizmolly)

Molly was as sweet as she was beautiful. Molly raced in WV and in FL and retired to the couch with her owners Nancy and Floyd. She was gentle and had a comedic side to her. Her presence will be missed.



Molly

Sally Newman (WP's Sherry)

Sally was adopted by Dr Harry & Phyllis Newman in November of 1998. She was their second greyhound. Dr Newman is the first veterinarian in the Buffalo area that dedicated his time and care for assisting retired racing greyhounds. Sally was thirteen years old.

Tiger Marcin (AC Tigerman)

Tiger was adopted by Shawn in August of 1997 after retiring from racing in Melbourne. Shawn recently saw the GALs at a Meet and Greet and stopped by to pet a Red Fawn greyhound resembling his Tiger.



Sally





If you're not doing so already, please consider receiving this newsletter electronically if possible. It helps save a tree or two, and the coolest interactive content is only available in the online edition.



some animals were slightly embarrassed in the making of these pictures