Greyhound Action League of Buffalo Spring 2013 INSIDE: Giving Back Still Reeling. Tommy

Paws Pointed Forward

On The Cover: Special Moves

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GREYHOUND ACTION LEAGUE OF BUFFALO GAL-ZETTE

Published quarterly.

For inquiries, email to: gactionl@aol.com

For newsletter submissions, email to mcaughel@aol.com

Please visit our website: www.greyhoundactionleague.com

EDITOR: Mark Caughel

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Gillian Lee
Linda James
Laura Pike
Nicole Argue
Mark Caughel

Is anyone else glad that 2012 is over? Yes, I said it. The year proved to be difficult- a test, in fact, that would bring challenges to our resiliency, our resourcefulness, and our dedication as an organization.

In the articles that follow in this newsletter, you'll read more in detail about some of these challenges, but let me briefly summarize them here:

New adoptions continued to be elusive, and our local placements were not nearly as many as we hoped. Fortunately, our relationship with our Canadian friends (GINA) is stronger than ever. After placing their 300th dog in 2011, they reached a new one year total of 40 greyhounds in 2012. Congratulations to their volunteers, adopters and the greyhounds on this milestone. GAL volunteers assisted GINA with several trips, transporting and washing newly retired greyhounds. We even fostered a few short term dogs as they made a brief stop in Buffalo on their way to Canada. As we continue to seek new homes for greys in our area, it is gratifying to know that our efforts are making such a difference elsewhere.

2012 marked the passing of (too) many of our beloved greyhounds and a few of our dear human friends as well. Each loss was difficult, and collectively a heavy burden indeed. Personally, I am grateful for the support of my extended family of GAL friends and volunteers, and I should also say that same support is always available to those in the group who need it. Please reach out.



TOMMY CAN YOU HEAR ME: Tommy was a big part of 2012.

In an unusual set of circumstances, we focused a large part of the year on a single dog-Tommy. Beginning with logistical and philosophical issues (should we take him?), Tommy's journey has been long and at times, demanding. In hindsight now though, taking the difficult path held many rewards. He has been a unifying presence in the organization, we have learned new and effective ways of raising funds, and we have the satisfaction of knowing we rescued and rehabilitated a dog many others couldn't or wouldn't have taken.

So, as happy as I am to draw a line under last year and start anew, it is not hard to identify all the good things that came from it. Perhaps it is because of our roots as a support organization that we are so effective when faced with adversity. Did we have a tough year? Yes. Did we endure terrible losses? Yes. Will we try to find homes for greyhounds tomorrow and each day after that? Absolutely. We have many things planned for 2013, and I hope you will continue to be a part of them.



Angelina Fink (*N's Angelina*) Sweet, petite, and her personality was great. Angelina became a pet and never experienced racing. She reveled in life as a beloved member of the Fink family, learning agility and traveling to many different areas for vacation. Beautiful sister to Foto, Digger, Boogie, Easy and Copper.

Dolly Duewiger (*WW Blow Mea Kiss*) Retired racer and brood mom to nineteen puppies, Dolly was ready to enjoy her retirement in Buffalo. She quickly became a loyal companion and friend to Grace. They would enjoy their daily walks together. "Dolly was very smart and understood everything, she really brought a lot of joy".

Sweetie Gallivan (*DK's Infinity*) After racing in Wisconsin, Sweetie came to join her brother Pablo as a pet. Full of life and energy, her family loved her very much. She is greatly missed by all.

Roxey Laudenslager (*RB Sugar Pie*) Roxey was a gentle soul that settled into retired life with her feline sibling. Roxey was spoiled and loved and a very lucky girl. Her family helped her across the Rainbow Bridge just a few days shy of her 11th birth-day.

Brody McCool (*Sendahl Brody*) "Brody, we all wish you were still here but you're not.... and Rainbow Bridge is very lucky to have you... no more blindness, no more pins in your leg, all is well and you are whole and running free. Until we meet again, you will always be in our hearts."

Beau Munro (Bobby's Bad Bull) Beau retired from racing in Wheeling WV. He enjoyed being doted on and loved by his family during his seven years of pet life.

Ticki Munro (*I'm Ticked*) As her name implied, her coat was beautifully marked. Ticki was a good racer in Iowa then retired to become a mom of eleven pups. Two were placed nearby in Buffalo and one in Canada. She enjoyed the pampering and love her family gave her.

Barbie Orrell (*Ultimate Barb*) Although her retirement may have been brief, she was deeply loved by her family. She will be missed.

Easy Paschen (*N's Easypaschen*) Easy came to live with Diania and Brian at a young age, having never raced. They enjoyed his puppy antics that continued on through the remainder of his life. "The house is a bit empty however I take comfort in the fact that we are blessed having had many years together and that Brian and Easy and other hounds and kitties and family members wait for us to finish our jobs here on earth. We are never truly apart. Love is beyond our comprehension."

Jumper Paschen (Hello Jumpergirl) Jumper was a special girl who arrived at a very special time for Brian. Truly a 'daddys girl' she did really love her mom Diania too! She aged gracefully and was thirteen at the time of her passing.

RB Paschen (**RB Brindle Boy**) RB was truly a good and devoted hound. After being returned, the Paschens were quick to take him in and make him part of their loving family. He really enjoyed all his grey-siblings.

Satin Paschen (*RB Black Satin*) Satin was a good racer and retired to Buffalo. He enjoyed pet life with his litter sister Hannah. He was as sweet as he was handsome.

Bully-Bull (Duke) Pike (Bull Run) In her final hours she enjoyed pizza crust and had her dinner. She even snagged a pressed rawhide bone from the foster pup with a growl and a flash of her teeth. She chewed on it for a while then put her head down and went to sleep, surrounded by her family like so many other evenings, but this one night, she would not awaken. Retired racer and brood mom to thirty-three pups, she was originally part of Nancy and Floyd's family. I often said that we 'inherited' Bull. We were so happy and lucky to have her as a part of our family, she truly was a gift. Strong willed, but easy to please. Bully had us all trained in short order. When she needed biscuits and when she needed an extra trip outside we were quick to accommodate. I know Nancy "Momma Duke" has you now wrapped in her wings. We loved you so much. Godspeed Bully-Bull.

OJoe Pike (*Princess Laura P*) Ojoe was an exceptional girl. You could not have a more perfect greyhound. Beautiful, sweet, courteous, playful and always stoic. Ojoe's race owner named her after me and promised that she would be my pet once she retired. I had the honor of visiting the Lingle Farm where she was raised and trained and made several visits to the Napolitano Racing Kennel at Raynham to watch her run. The day came when I was able to bring her home to be a part of our family. She settled in immediately. We miss you so very much. You truly were a gift, a priviledge.

Lucky Rudnicki (Hallo for Luck) Born in 1997, he came to us in the Spring of 2001. We would always see his foster mom Laura at the Fair & talk about Lucky. He really was such a sweetheart who loved his walks even as they became increasingly shorter and more difficult at times. He also enjoyed sniffing outside, stealing food (which he never stopped) and sleeping on his blankie. We had him for almost eleven great years. He was a wonderful, sweet dog & he'll be sorely missed.

Mac Szelest (Boc's Mc Dreamy) Mac was diagnosed with massive tumors but he fought like a champion for the last four months until he could suffer no more. We don't like to single out one particular greyhound out of the four we have had but we were blessed with Mac- he did everything with us- he was our life. Thank you for bringing him into our lives.

Greer Thrun (*Greers Folly*) Greer is no longer in pain and is chasing rabbits in Heaven. We are thankful for her being a part of our family. For the past few years we have LOVED having her and Zippity running and making our lives that much more enjoyable.



Hello there! My name is RJ's Theadore, but most of you may know me as Teddy. I am a retired greyhound and well... retirement can get a little boring with all that sleeping... So I started looking into what I could do with my talents. Dogs, like humans, sometimes need emergency medical treatment. Whether it is illness, injury or surgery, sometimes we end up needing a little medical TLC. While that treatment must come in the form of human intervention, some dogs can actually help others – by acting as canine blood donors.

Because human blood cannot be given to dogs, animals in need must look to one of their own for help. That help is often provided by - ahem - the stately greyhound. Known for our speed and endurance on the racetrack, we are also the only breed that can act as universal blood donors for dogs – DEA 1.1. Second, our temperament and disposition from our training at the track make us very comfortable with being handled. Third, our lean muscular build and prominent veins make the blood collection even easier. It's like a match made well, on earth!

Greyhound blood differs from other dogs as we have a higher red blood cell count (which helps carry large quantities of oxygen faster from our lungs to our muscles), lower white blood cell count and lower platelet count. We typically have negative blood type – DEA 1.1, which is universal to practically all breeds. As a result, our blood is super valuable to veterinarian medicine.

A single donation can be used to save the lives of at least two other dogs. After a bleed, our blood is separated into two components - red blood cells and plasma. The different components are given to patients suffering from anemia, major injury or disease. When I went in for my initial screening, there was an anemic dog waiting for her blood transfusion. I knew then how valuable a little bit of my time would be for her. Fresh frozen plasma is used to treat a variety of illnesses in dogs, including poisoning, snake and spider bites, heat stroke, and bleeding disorders. It is even given to newborn puppies that are not strong enough to nurse. Dogs injured in accidents are also common recipients. The need is great, and much like with the human population, the supply is often short.

We usually don't need any sedation or anesthetic, and blood collection takes approximately 5-10 minutes. With the new vacuum system (like they do with humans), it can be done even faster! They only take about 500 mls for each dog, and we can donate every 3-4 months. Like humans, our blood starts to replace itself immediately after it is taken.

What I like about it is my blood is checked every time I donate – just like if I were having my annual physical. So I know that I am healthy Plus there are lots of cookies, pats and 'good boy's afterward. Most donation programs have a goodie bag or other reward for our good deed.

So there's the technical stuff. Now... here's the fun stuff!!

The Screening

On November 29, I went to Mississauga Oakville Veterinary Emergency Hospital to have my blood screened. I was a little nervous because I didn't know if I would pass or not, but Stephanie and Becky were greyt.

For starters, I had to meet the basic screening. This differs a little for different clinics, but for basically:

- Must be greater than 50 lbs (a hefty 82lb!)
- Must be between 1-8 years old (I'm 4.5 years old)
- Must have a docile temperament (I'm Teddy!)
- Must not have a history of blood transfusions (nope!)
- Should be in good health and free of any diseases (yup!)



Stephanie gave me Teddy bear hugs while Becky found my vein



COOKIES!!!!



Waiting to see what my blood type is...



Martha and Sarah checking my vitals



Just a little off the top, please!



Vacuum on the left, blood collection bag on the right

Becky took two vials of my blood to be sent to INDEXX for complete testing. But – I needed to pass the test first. So Becky got the Alvedia Canine Quick Test kit out, put a droplet of blood in the well, added the buffer solution and then put in the blood collector strip. I got some cookies, and then we waited! And waited.... It felt like eternity, but... it was probably just because I was eager to see if I passed I got more cookies while we waited, and lots of pats and ear rubs. And then the results were in!! I passed!! Nice fat red streak indicating DEA 1.1. Woo hoo!! More cookies!! Did I mention cookies? A few days later, INDEXX confirmed I passed the health screening and could enter the blood donor program!

The Donation

On January 25, I headed back to Mississauga Oakville Veterinary Emergency Hospital for a donation. Becky was on maternity leave, so I had the pleasure of working with Martha and Sarah.

Before every donation, I am given a quick complete physical, and seen by a veterinarian. I had my temperature taken, and my heart and lungs were checked and I was am given a look-over by a vet.

Becky located my vein and shaved a small amount of fur off my neck. Some donations are taken via the leg, some donations are done through the neck. She put a small dab of a numbing cream at the donation site, just to make it even more comfortable for me. Then, it's trough time!!

The position for donation varies with the agency. Some donations are done with the greyhound laying on their side, and some are done with us on our back. While a dog being on their back is a very submissive position, it is a very familiar and comfortable position for us greyhounds. It's roaching without the effort!! Plus, the trough is uber comfortable with all the padding. And, I even got a head pillow.

Once we got me sorted out and comfortable, Sarah gave me excellent ear rubs and neck scratches. I didn't even feel Martha poke me! At Mississauga Oakville Emergency Veterinary Clinic, they use mild vacuum pressure to facilitate blood collection. The vacuum creates negative pressure inside the collection bag holder and pulls the blood directly from my vein to the collection bag. This is uber fast and is much more efficient than the drip method. The vacuum method is used in people for the same reasons, so it is completely safe. The entire process took less than 5 minutes for a 500mL draw.

Afterwards, I got my very own liquid 'orange juice and cookies' in the form of some subcutaneous fluids. And then, of course, COOKIES!!!!

All in all, the entire procedure was painless, quick and full of love. There is a period of 10 weeks between donations, and generally a donation can be made 3-4 times a year. I hope I can donate again soon. A few minutes of my life can give life back to a canine that needs more than 5 minutes. Every donation can help save a life.



Getting some subcutaneous fluids post donation



Cookies!!! Cooooookies!!!



During the GINA trip to Wheeling this past July we had the opportunity to stop and pick up some retired racers at "Jack's Farm". Jack always the gracious host, invited us into the brood house to visit some moms and their young pups.

In one of the runs I noticed a brindle pup by himself moving about with a limp. Of course curiosity kicks in and we inquire as to his situation. Jack explained that he was segregated into a smaller run so they could keep an eye on "Tommys" leg. He had been to the vet for x-rays and they were trying to determine if it was a growth plate or some other form of orthopedic issue.

Without fully realizing the extent of his disability, but seeing a dog in need, I said, "If Tommy is not able to race, let us know." As it happened, just a couple of weeks later the GALs received a call stating that 'we could rehome Tommy" he was not going to race. Wow, now what? Were the GALs prepared to take on a 6 month old puppy? Well, we decided Tommy deserved a chance at pet life just as much as a retired racer. The GALs reached out to Sharon and Dorothy of CIGA who deal with orthopedic issues on a regular basis.

We came up with a plan which included transporting Tommy to an orthopedic specialist in Chicago, one that had a great amount of experience with greyhounds. He went in for an exam and x-rays. Dr. Turner determined that there was nothing wrong with Tommy's bones, - it was definitely a muscle / tissue problem.

Tommy came back to Buffalo with the plan of going for recreational swimming and walking on a tread mill to help build up the muscles in his rear legs. He would also have to learn to put full pressure down on his foot. Under the guidance and care of Dr. Heather Sacks Allen, of Nickel City Animal Hospital we were taught how to stretch and exercise his leg.

Next, we reached out to Cindy Youngers of Cara Mia Pet Resort. After speaking to Cindy about Tommy's situation, she invited us to her Pet Resort to give Tommy an opportunity to try out swimming. With the patience and expertise of Cindys staff, Amanda and Sam, he was quickly on his way to rebuilding muscle.

Tommy has three appointments a week for swimming and treadmill. He has made some very good progress and is starting to build some muscle in his rear legs. He is now using his foot more.

Tommy may never be 'perfect', but the GALs are working very hard to get him to be as good as he can be. Potential adopters will have to understand that Tommy may always have a bit of a limp. They also need to under-



stand he is still a puppy. We know in time the right home will come along that will understand his needs and are willing to continue his rehab.

Please check out our GAL Face Book Page for updates on Tommy.

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Greyhound Action League hosted their first online auction to raise funds for Tommy Boy. Utilizing Face Book we were able to spread the word quickly and not forfeit any of the funds raised to miscellaneous fees.

With more than 50 items of various values and themes we had some interesting bidding wars take place. The bidders were generous and participated with the spirit of helping out Tommy Boy.

We want to acknowledge the following folks for donating to the auction: Fink Family, Caughel Family, Argue Family, Twarowski Family, Piquette Family, CIGA, GINA, DIGnified Greyhound Designs, Chai Huggablehound, and Run with it Embroidery. We also want to thank Janet Stoefen for the beautiful greyhound afghan she crocheted.

Thank you to our contributors and bidders for making the Auction a Success.



THE BIG PRIZE: A life size bronze greyhound statue donated by the Fink family.

We want to acknowledge and thank owner Cindy and her Staff Amanda and Samantha for their support and special attention to Tommy aka. Thomas Jenkins. They have gone above and beyond to help this special hound be all that he can be.

We appreciate the generosity of Cara Mia making it possible for the GALs to bring Tommy for swimming and treadmill. We would not be able to do this without their help.

Please take a moment to review this Luxury Pet Resort and the amazing amenities they provide. Talk about

pampering!!! Cara Mia Pet Resort is located at 6429 Transit Road in East Amherst.

Be sure to "Like" them on Face Book and spread the word to your family and friends.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: The kind people at Cara Mia celebrated Tommy's birthday during a recent therapy session.



Years at the Erie County Fair



We've written before about how important it is for us to be a part of the fair, and if you have yet to volunteer, please consider it. Like kettle corn and pig races, people now attend expecting to see our greyhounds, and we do our best to take advantage of that opportunity. While it would be easy to slap the same logo on a banner time after time, we have challenged ourselves to change our presentation each year. Our custom t-shirts easily identify us as volunteers of the organization and are also a fun way to get into the spirit of the event by coordinating with the Erie County Fair's theme. In addition, we have benefitted from showing our dogs in a cool, comfortable and relaxed environment on the lawn of the Historical Building. Seeing the greyhounds in that setting, stress free and happy has made many lasting impressions. It has been a wonderful five years.



We will learn soon if we will be participating in the 2013 edition of the Erie County Fair, and yes, a t-shirt design will be produced. Before you know it, the Fair will be here again, so stay tuned!





available

Miss "SM", sleek, shiney and black, this little sweetie is sure to be a heart breaker! "SM" gets along very well with indoor cats, greyhounds, and other breeds. She has a terrific balance of enthusiasm and playfulness yet is mostly calm, sweet and friendly. She does well with people and at meet and greets. Her pedigree shows her grandmothers as "Redbabybrindle" and "USS Freightning", both very special hounds that retired into Buffalo and Canada. SM recently turned four years old, she really has a super spirit.



ON MY iPAWd SILKY SOCKS

Silky starred in a video once, but is now enjoying retirement in the Buffalo suburbs.

Given her Southern roots, you might expect her to be a little bit Country and less

Rock'n Roll, but as we know, she's unpredictable.



BONE THUGS-N-HARMONY

"IST OF THA MONTH"
"I thought their music
would be more about
bones, but I know what it
is like to wait for your
check every month- it
speaks to me."

FRANKIE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

"RELAX (DON'T DO IT)"
"To this day I have no idea
what the hell they are talking
about, but my mom wears
that "RELAX" t-shirt all
the time. Come to think of
it, she says "don't do it"
a lot too."

STEVE PERRY

"OH SHERRY"

"Don't tell anyone, but I like to sing along with this song, except I pretend he's saying "Silky" and not "Sherry". My love holds on too."

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

"SEXY BACK"

"Even before I heard this song, I was thinking about bringing Sexy back. Where did Sexy go in the first place? Anyway, this is a good going out song- like to the yard, or a booth...it has attitude-like me!

This past July, nine unassuming GiNA members car pooled together and ventured south to Wheeling, West Virginia for an incredible greyhound weekend. The troop included two friends from our associate Greyhound Action League in Buffalo, Laura and Nicole.

After arranging dog care for left behind hounds, fellow adventure-seekers set out early on Saturday morning with the plan to cross the border and arrive at the Wheeling racetrack around 2:00 p.m. The Dude and I left one day earlier and extended the mini vaca to include one sleep over at Erie, Pennsylvania and a strict 2 hour limit at a Premium Outlet mall on the way to West Virginia.



Wheeling is an exciting and festive island that boasts a large casino/hotel and dog racing complex. It is surrounded by the vast Ohio River that separates WV and Ohio states.

Arriving safely on the island, we gathered at the outdoor racetrack viewing area. From here we were able to see the racers being led to the starting pens, and a great view of them being released and flying after "Spunky" the mechanical rabbit. The races were very short...just over 30 seconds, and 10 minutes later, another race began.

When everyone felt refreshed and rejuvenated, we piled back into our vehicles and headed up high into the winding hills of West Virginia to Kim's farm. We were warmly greeted by Wayne and Cheryl, two amazing life-long racing greyhound trainers, whom we came to love and respect pretty much immediately!! It was high up in those WV hills that we all first set eyes on greyhound puppies!!! We also met



Princess, who graciously shared her shelter with us during a sudden mountain thunder storm.

Back to the racetrack muddy and wet, we quickly changed into our red GiNA shirts (Wayne and Cheryl too!) and watched the dogs weigh in for the next race.

We also visited the Adoption Centre attached to the racetrack, and met Quigley who was chosen to return to Canada with us. There were about twenty hounds in this facility (females in upper kennels, males below), waiting to be adopted. We wanted to take them all back with us, but were assured that this group of hounds had a very good chance of being adopted in the near future.



A wonderful buffet awaited us back at the casino, where we were provided with a separate area to sit together to eat (we were hungry!) and absorb Wayne and Cheryl extensive knowledge and endless stories about hound breeding and training. We also had a closed circuit TV from which we could enjoy a



great view of the evening races.

A surprise visit from Mr. Dean Miner was most entertaining. We soon discovered that Dean owned CTW kennels and was himself, a prominent greyhound owner on the national level and a past president of the Wheeling Island Kennel Owners Association. He thanked us for GiNA's and GAL's valuable work, and made it clear how much it was appreciated that retired racers found good homes. He also extended an invitation for us to stay at the casino hotel on the island on our next visit.

We slept over at a nearby Super 8 (actually over the border in Ohio) and the next morning met at Denny's next door for a delicious breakfast. Jenn



strategized with Wayne and Cheryl to pick up Quigley from the racetrack, Princess from Kim's farm, and after refueling we headed once again way up into the WV hills to Jack's greyhound farm. Jack was most hospitable and very proud to give us a tour of his facility. We fussed over more puppies and saw fields of expansive dog runs. We picked up Bridget and Joey (Hugo's brother) feeling bad that we had to leave



Bandit (another brother) behind.

We said our good-byes and thanks to Cheryl and made Wayne promise to join us on Facebook (which he did!).

One more stop to pick up Billy at the old Gable compound, and off we headed, with the plan to meet back at Laura's home in Buffalo by 4:00 p.m. (speed limits???) where a crew awaited us ready to bathe and de tick the dogs. Blair loaded our sixth retiree Nancy into the car and next stop...home. Crossing the Canadian border was also exciting. The border guards all came out and made such a fuss over the hounds. One of the guards has actually adopted two greyhounds himself! Very, very special.

Our last stop was back at Blair's house before dark, where we were greeted by Yanick, Angel and other foster families all prepped with instructions, dog food, and anxious to welcome their foster hounds to their new life and to the fellowship of GiNA. It was a tremendous ending to the weekend, knowing that we left behind 6 empty crates in the U.S. kennels. Please join us next year. It was truly a GREYT time!

GAL Events for 2013

Please note this is a partial list. Keep watch on the GAL Face Book, GAL Digest and/or our web site for updated information:

MEET and GREETS

Walden Galleria: Mar 9th, Apr 13th, May 11th, Jun 8th, Jul 13th, Aug 10th, Sep 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 9th and Dec 14th. Hours may vary, usually 1pm-3pm.



Tractor Supply – Alden: Mar 2nd, Apr 6th, May 4th, Jun 1st, Jul 6th, Aug 2nd, Sep 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, Dec 21st. Hours are 10am-12pm.

Erie County Fair (Aug 7th - 18th), "Experience It" Dates/Times for GAL appearances tha Additional M&G's are being confirmed and will be added

FUNDRAISERS

Glam Days – Sunday, April 21st from 10am-4pm RSVP 867.9822 Glam Days – Sunday, November 10th from 10am-4pm RSVP 867.9822 (Glam Day Hosts: Doug & Dianne,122 Princeton in Cheektowaga off Cleveland Drive)

Calendar Sales Begin – Fall tba, would you like a chance for your hound to be in the GAL 2014 Calendar? Join us at one of the GAL events, or walks, you just never know when the camera may capture your hound in a beautiful pose!

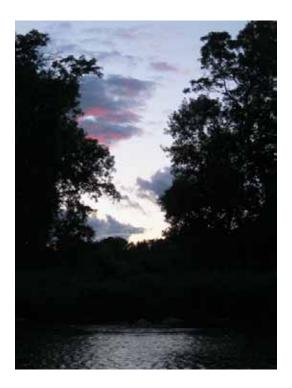
Pet Photos with Santa – Saturday December 7th from 11am-3pm

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wheeling Trip – with GINA April 12th or 13th / 14th Details to be posted MS Walk – Sunday, May 5th Details will be posted Save The Date! – Saturday, May 11th GAL Picnic – Saturday, July 27th Details will be posted Holiday After-Party – Saturday, December 7th from 4pm – 6pm Sunday Strolls – dates to be announced

NATIONAL EVENTS

Greyhounds in Gettysburg – April 26th / April 28th, www.greyhoundsingettysburg.org GrapeHounds – July 25th / July 28th – www.grapehounds.com/home-new-york.html Greyhounds Reach the Beach – October 10th / October 14th www.greyhoundsreachthebeach.org



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of some of our dear friends:

Brian Paschen, husband to Diania. Brian was a loving greyhound dad to eight greyhounds. He was an active GAL volunteer and a good friend. Quick to say yes to a foster dog in need, or to be a copilot on a long distance transport, Brian loved and supported greyhounds even in his passing.

John Torrelli, husband to Toni. John was father to several greyhounds, most recently Sandy and Whisper. Always willing to drive the distance from Erie to Buffalo, he and Toni would come and participate in many of the GAL events.

Kathy Walbrun, dear friend and companion to D. Jimmy Black. Kathy worked with racing greyhounds for many years. We had the pleasure of meeting her on one of the Dubuque, Iowa hauls. Kathy was a quick supporter of the GALs and always enjoyed the revealing of the "Fair T-shirt" design.

fundraisers 15

2013 GAL Calendar

We want to congratulate all the Calendar Dogs and their families: Barbie Orwell, Silky Socks Pike, Zia Empringham, Remy & Dalilah Neziol, Jester Twaroski, Lexy Merk, Mo Sawulak, Nancy Adams, Pablo & Sweetie Gallivan, Jimmy Bakowski, Smokey Wolffer, Sandy & Dime Forman, and Simon Empringham.

Once again Mark Caughel has provided a beautiful keepsake to be enjoyed all year long. The GALs appreciate Mark's photography and editing used for this worthwhile project.

Sales for this year's calendar far exceeded previous years. The funds raised were earmarked for the therapy care for Foster Dog Tommy. Thank you to all who purchased the GAL Calendar.



Santa Photos



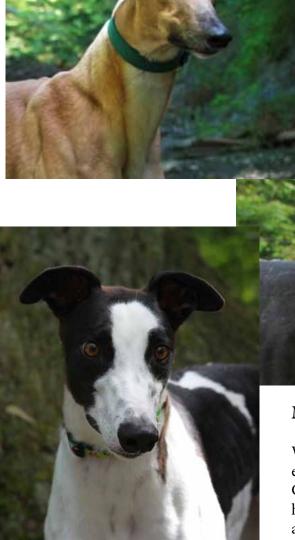
In December, Greyhound Action League held its annual Pet Photos with Santa fundraiser. It was the second time for this event at Como Lake Park, after many years previously at Stapley Feed Center. This new location has many advantages- a cozy, secure interior with a ready made clientele comprising the frequent dog walkers in the park. We were also visited by a faithful following of previous customers as well as our dedicated volunteers.

Special thanks to Doug Empringham, as always, for bravely donning the Santa suit yet again. Even though many of our subjects this year weighed more than 100 pounds, Doug managed to remain jolly throughout the day.



Adopted!

Mo Sawulak, (Cascade Mo) is a recent retiree from Mardis Gras and Bluffs Run. This handsome fella was a natural fit for his new family. Now he has family of his own to give him attention, a fenced yard, and daily walks along the lake! Congrats to Mo.



Mookie has a home!

We want to congratulate Mookie and his new adoptive parents, Lee and LuAnn Proctor. As active volunteers with GINA, they heard about Mookie and were interested in giving him his forever home. A quick transfer from GAL to GINA and he was on his way there. Mookie is enjoying his grey siblings Ally and Bear, and two smaller friends Hazel and Henry. He loves going for walks or playing in their fenced yard. He has also discovered where the stuffed toys are kept. We wish him and his family all the best!