



GreyHeart Greyhound Adoption

Newsletter - Fall 2021 Edition

The President “Speaks”

Happy Fall Everyone!

Once again, the summer has come and gone way too soon. It will be missed. Unfortunately a couple of our favorite GreyHeart members will be missed also. Ellen Zerba, owner of Logan and Meg Briarton the owner of Socks and Willie have recently passed.

Logan has been adopted to our old friend Jim Allor or “Woody” and Socks and Willie are currently being fostered by Jennifer Heater. Socks and Willie will soon be making the trip to Kansas to their new forever home with Shelly Ann Lake. For those of you who are familiar with Shelly, you will know that these pups will be in the best of hands.

With the current downsizing of the Greyhound racing industry, I have often been asked “What do I think the future holds for the breed?” I have a difficult time with this question. I’m not quite sure how to answer this. A good friend of mine called me a few weeks ago after returning from his daily trip to the local dog park. He met up with a greyhound that was from overseas and not bred for racing. What he had to say about his meeting with this other hound’s personality made me think that he just possibly gave me the answer to this question. I asked him if he could write this down for me to share with you all. Here it is.....

Nature vs Nurture

“A short while ago I took Abby to the Lyon Oaks dog park which is one of several remote “back yards” that she frequents. Per usual, she took the first few minutes sniffing out the local news until she felt inspired to produce her evening constitutional. During this ritual I usually try to sneak away a good 50 yards or so to entice her to locate her wayward dad and burn a trail to my new location. Naturally, I try to find a spot that gives the best viewability to the moms, dads and fur babies that congregate around the centralized pavilion. I would be lying if I said I didn’t also factor in the angle of the sun for anyone clever enough to have their mobile set to video mode. Anyhoo, I had about 20 yards under my belt when I turned to see a woman walking towards Abby pointing in her direction and waving with the other arm. Granted, Abby is quite a sight to behold for those of non-greyhound persuasion, but the woman’s gesticulations were odd

even for the situation. As it turns out, she was waving to her greyhound to come meet Abby. We started with the usual, “where did you get your Grey?”, and she seemed riveted to my monologue of track life, GreyHeart’s back story, acquiring this beautiful hound, acclimating to retirement life, fun runs, taking over our home and requiring 5 beds.

But it was her story that took me by surprise.

She had put her name in the hat with several local adoption agencies but availability was scarce. She then decided to purchase a European greyhound, which was this beautiful 80lb+ brindle boy doing the sniff-a-round with Abby. She was hoping that “Grant” would pick up some greyhound skills from Abby while they were together and that she could see him at his glorious best. “So” I said, “you haven’t yet seen this boy tear up the tundra?” To my surprise (and horror), she said her boy gets out raced by nearly every dog in the park, probably because he has only run with the other labs and goldens that frequent the place. She basically had a big, beautiful greyhound that thought he was a Labrador. It was like seeing an eagle playing with a bunch of chickens.

Then it dawned on me that this fella never learned to run! He was the embodiment of strength, power, elegance and majestic attitude but nobody let him in on that little secret. All the qualities of my retired racer that I embrace, brag about and stand in awe watching was nurtured, cultivated, empowered, developed, tested and challenged so she could be the amazing greyhound that I fell in love with. Greyhounds also hold the world record for the high jump, though I’m certainly glad that Abby is not aware of that factoid. It was then that I recognized how fortunate we are to have former “racers” which are, in my opinion, an advanced form of the breed.”

Michael King

I think Mike sums it up nicely what could possibly happen with the future of greyhound pups here in North America. Keep in mind this is just an opinion, and you know what they say about opinions!! It’s a good one though.

We will be expecting one more “Home for the Holidays” haul later in the month. Keep your eyes open for this!! Please consider fostering for us! We need fosters more than ever right now! Contact me or Assi if you're interested.

Thank you all! Please go hug your hounds!

Art Zylka, GreyHeart President

West Virginia Greyhound Hauls

- On July 17th Art and Zach Mayfield made the trip to West Virginia to pick up Rico's Love Em All who was fostered by Vanessa Rowan.



- On August 21st, Ginnie and Art drove to pick up this sweet little girl from Maumee, Ohio. Thanks so much to Holly Grimm from North Coast Greyhound Connection who picked her up from Wheeling, W VA in the morning and brought her along with 3 of their new greys back to her home in Maumee. Her name is Fatbottomedgirl and was fostered by Andy Bommersbach and his family. And no, she does not have a fat bottom!

➤



- On Sunday, September 26th, Jim from GEM picked up these two beauties along with their haul from West Virginia and delivered them to Art & Assi's house.



Ey Livy is a red brindle female fostered by Connie Schmidt



Charlotte York is a black female fostered by Gordy & Andrea Judd

October Greyhound Haul

It was a perfect day for a haul on Saturday, October 16th..... a little chilly but sunny. We brought in a fun group of pups, 4 female and 1 male. Thanks to Art & Assi for all their hard work in making this haul a success. And as always, thanks to Linda Cliffler and Sunburst Kennel for sending us these incredible hounds.

None of our hauls could happen without our amazing volunteers who get up at the crack of dawn, drive 3+ hours to the Indiana border to pick up our hounds from the hauler and then drive 3+ hours back to Art & Assi's house to deliver them to our fosters. They have had to endure driving in rain, snow and bad traffic conditions. A few of our volunteers (Jim Bartlett and Ed Pietrzak) are drivers on almost every haul. They drove today along with our riders, Lisa LeGue and Moira Hagan. There are many others who have volunteered once or many times and our thanks go out to them as well.



Ed Pietrzak, Lisa LeGue, Jim Bartlett & Moira Hagan



Como Fast Eddie (Eddie) is a brindle male fostered by Kait Seryak



Oshkosh Jazz (Jazz) is a red female fostered by Corey & Erin Gipperich



FGF Fast As You (Fast) is a white/& black cow dog fostered by Amy Hensley.



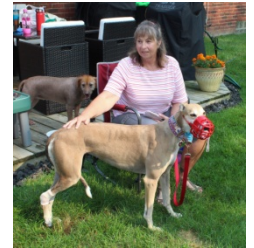
Lil Bit is a brindle female fostered by Yvonne Warner



Oshkosh Nadine (Nadine) is a red female fostered by Wendy Alley

July Play Date

It was a greyt day for a playdate!! Thanks Art and Assi for opening up your big back yard for a playdate for our hounds. I believe we had around 22 hounds (and their parents) that joined in the fun. It was a little warm so there wasn't as much running around but we had quite a few first time "swimmers". The biggest attraction was when someone new was entering the yard, every hound had to run to the gate to greet them. There was lots of "does everyone have hold of a hound?!?!?"





GreyHeart Picnic

Our GreyHeart picnic on Sunday, September 19th was a HUGE success. The weather was perfect and all the hounds seemed to have a greyt time. There were approximately 52 hounds and around 120 humans that came out to Heritage Park in Canton to join in the fun. Many thanks to Steve & Jen Thomas and Art & Assi Zylka for all the hard work they put into making this picnic a wonderful event. It was so much fun catching up with friends we haven't seen in a long time and making new ones.

Thanks to Kari Nugent and her Unleashed Team for joining us!! And also thanks to our Picnic vendors Erin Ropes and Sarah Divona.





Art & Assi Zylka



Steve & Jen Thomas

Contest Winners

Look alike: GiGi, Solo & Gia



Whipped Cream Eating:



1st place – Boo



2nd place – Solo

Best Roo:



1st place – Katy



2nd place – Marcus

Shortest:

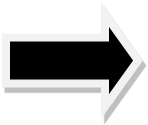


1st place – Boss (54 ½”)

Longest:



1st place – Big Tuna on the right (68 ½”)



The date of our next haul is unknown at this time.

*******ATTENTION*******

Our annual GreyHeart Auction will be starting on Sunday, Novemer 7th through Saturday, December 4th. There will be tons of amazing items that will be up for auction. More details to follow at a later date!

Upcoming Events

► **Meet & Greet**s (Specific maps/locations can be found on the GreyHeart website)

There are no Meet & Greet scheduled at this time due to the CoronaVirus. Hopefully, we will see you all soon!!

Stay tuned for impromptu fun walks & other events. Check Facebook for announcements of dates & times when we will walk our hounds (i.e. Hines Park, Downtown River Walk, etc.) or organize play dates. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our amazing hounds and solicit potential adopters. If you have any other fun ideas, let us know!!

If you have any suggestions for future newsletters, please let us know. These articles can be about information you believe will be useful to all greyhound owners or stories you would like to share.

→ Please forward all newsletter inquiries, suggestions and photos to: Ginnie Bondy at bond0011@aol.com

→ Articles, photos and any items to be included in the next newsletter **must be submitted to Ginnie by December 15th, 2021.**

