



GreyHeart Greyhound Adoption

Newsletter - February 2018 Edition

The President “Speaks”

Let’s start by saying that we managed to get 6 perfect hounds in on Super Bowl Sunday. If all went well they should have been at my home by noon. As you know, after many extended delays they didn’t make it in until about 9:30 p.m. It was a very frustrating day. We work so hard all month to make this happen, any delay in arrival is a disappointment. So many things can happen to these hounds between here and Florida. The poor driving conditions had a lot to do with the set - backs.

When they finally arrived, our Vet Tech Courtney was ready for just about anything. I was expecting the hounds would need some special attention after the extended time they spent on the haul, but luckily they all checked out just fine! They were perfect! We got very lucky. This haul brought in our youngest (Emma - 15 months) and our oldest (Dayton - 8 yrs) hounds since I have been doing this. It was a very colorful and diverse group.

I would just like to say thank you to all of our volunteers Sunday for making this happen. You know who you are..... you guys are awesome. It was a very long day, but in the end it was worth it. As Kelly said, let’s call this one the “Super Dog Haul”. One I won’t forget any time soon.

Thanks again!

Art Zylka

February Greyhound Haul (“The Super Dog Haul”)

Another successful (although very adventurous) haul on Sunday, February 4th! We brought in 6 beautiful hounds (2 males & 4 females). The hounds were in great condition after leaving the warmer weather in Florida. A **very special** thanks to Linda Cliffel and Sunburst Kennel for continuing to send us beautiful hounds. Also a big thanks to the drivers/riders who volunteered to pick them up at the Michigan/Indiana border: Jeff Henkel, Ed Pietrzak, Monique LaBenne, Karen Brickner, Kathy Cooper and Austin Garcia. A special thanks to Courtney Evans from Unleashed Vet who checked out each of the hounds to make sure they were in top shape.

THANK YOU ALL FOR SUPPORTING GREYHEART!



Katy is a 3.5 year old brindle female.
Fostered by: Chris Sytek



Emma is a 1 year old white & dark brindle female.
Fostered by: Vanessa Rowan
Adopted by: Amy Bulszewicz



Dayton is an 8 year old brindle female. Adopted by: Irene Adler



Vern is a 2.5 year old black male. Fostered by: Sandy Shaloub



Clem is a 2.5 year old red fawn male. Fostered by: Jay Schneider



Lady is a 2.5 year old black female. Fostered by: Codilyn Johnston

If You Open Your Heart To Them, They Will Open Your Eyes.

Oakwood Common/Beaumont Retirement Community

On Sunday, January 21st we visited the Oakwood Common/Beaumont Retirement Community along with 8 of our greyhounds. Austin Garcia and Kelly Coughlin presented information about greyhounds, their history and our adoption process. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and were given an opportunity to ask questions. They were especially excited to pet and interact with the hounds. Thanks to all who made this a successful event!!



Upcoming Events

In conjunction with Carson's (Laurel Park) Community Days, we have had a few of our greyhounds available to meet the public in the mall entrance of the store on several dates during January and have several more dates scheduled in February and March. Community Days is a storewide event that recognizes and helps local school groups and community nonprofit organizations raise funds for the life-changing work they do. Carson's is partnering with us by providing Community Days coupon booklets to sell for \$5 each. **With each booklet sold, we will be able to keep 100% of the profits.** The coupon booklets contain about \$500 worth of coupons plus a \$10 off coupon for any regularly priced item in the store. We have ordered 200 booklets and if we sell all of them, we will profit \$2,000!!

So far we have had excellent results! Not only from collecting donations and selling Carson's coupon booklets, but there has been a huge interest in our greyhounds from people in the mall that happen to be walking by. It gives us the perfect opportunity to educate the public and encourage possible adoptions.

If you are interested in selling coupon booklets or attending one of the Meet and Greets in the mall, please contact Art or Ginnie.




► **Meet & Greets** (Specific maps/locations can be found on the Greyheart website)

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Sat, Feb 10 | 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Livonia Pet Supplies “Plus” |
| | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Gr Pte Pet Supplies “Plus” |
| • Sat, Feb 17 | 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Livonia PetValu |
| • Sat, Feb 24 | 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Shelby Twp Purely Pets |
| • Sat, March 3 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. | W Bloomfield PetValu |
| • Sat, March 10 | 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Livonia Pet Supplies “Plus” |

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Gr Pte Pet Supplies “Plus” |
| • Sat, March 17 | 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Livonia PetValu |
| • Sat, March 24 | 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Shelby Twp Purely Pets |
| • Sat, April 7 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. | W Bloomfield PetValu |
| • Sat, April 14 | 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Livonia Pet Supplies “Plus” |
| | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Gr Pte Pet Supplies “Plus” |

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS!! *Please consider bringing your greyhound to one or more of these fun events. Not only are Meet N' Greet's a wonderful opportunity to introduce our wonderful greyhounds to the public, it also gives us a great opportunity to educate possible greyhound adopters. It's a lot of fun to meet with other greyhound owners and share experiences!*

Fostering

Fostering is an integral function in the greyhound adoption process. It provides the foster parent a chance to get to know the hound before they are placed in their new home thus ensuring the adoptive parents are a good fit with the new hound. Some hounds may have to stay in a foster home for several weeks while others may only have to stay for a few days. Not only do foster parents open their homes to these hounds, they also open their 's !! If you are interested in becoming a foster, please contact Art Zylka at agzylka@hotmail.com.

The GreyHeart Store is Open for Business!!

The GreyHeart Store is finally open!! At this time, we are offering t-shirts, long-sleeved t-shirts and hoodies..... but hope to be adding more items soon.

Please take a moment to check out the new GreyHeart logo shirts now available for sale at <https://www.greyheart.org/greyheart-store.html>.

Please note: All items purchased in this order will be bulk ordered on Feb. 15th and will be available for pick up or delivery around the first week of March.

Tania Bruner is a Clinical psychologist, psychometrician, college professor, canine obedience trainer, canine agility trainer, AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator, owner and trainer of therapy dogs, wife to the world's best husband and proud mother to two amazing adult children and, lastly but not least, so proud to be Crawford's MOM!

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Since this is the first of many articles to be published for the benefit of our hounds, I thought it prudent to begin with the topic of “household management”. That term can be defined as the overall management of the home and its members, including our wonderful greys.

Three concepts comprise the household management of our dogs: consistency, predictability and novelty.

Consistency means logical order and following the same pattern. Our dogs come to us having lived in a highly consistent and regimented environment. It is safe to assume their lives at the track were scheduled, predictable and involved much of the “sameness” from day to day. The world of the adopted greyhound is dramatically changed when they move into their new forever homes. Nothing is the same and everything is different. As owners, we are responsible for applying and integrating consistency immediately. Consistency applied over time will become the new “sameness” for our adoptees. Consistency establishes hope, trust and sets the foundation for their success. We alone, and not the dog, are responsible for their success. New owners also demonstrate compassion through consistency. Providing consistency for our dogs produces a sense of calm and comfort in the confusion of essentially being placed on a brand new planet and not knowing the rules nor how to exist. Examples of consistency include keeping the same feeding time, potty, play, exercise schedules or living with the same family members day after day. Using the same command words, keeping the food and water bowls in the same location, providing the same food and even the same bedtime routine also apply. The little things are really the BIG things that can make a difference.

Predictability is a constant repetition of a state or behavior by making it possible to know what to expect in the future. This also produces calmness and comfort. While it may take time and consistency to give birth to predictability in the state of the new home and family members, the greater the quality and quantity of behaviors and responses we can expect in our dogs. For example, when we arrive home at the same time every day, our dogs can make better predictions about our arrival and wait to potty until released outside. Or, they will refrain from begging for playtime or a walk when it is their predictable bedtime. Consistency gives birth to predictability.

Finally, novelty is something that dogs enjoy. Please note that I said novelty, not major change. Novelty is about the new, unique or unusual but it is NOT a major change. Most dogs habituate and adapt to their new environments gradually. But the more change that is introduced during that time, the less likely the dog will be successful and the more stressed it will become. We want to avoid major changes in our household when we get a new dog and for the immediate future.

Humans don't like change and neither do dogs. In fact, it can result in resistance, fear, anxiety, fatigue and even aggression. Mammal brains are hardwired in the basal ganglia to look for repetition, sameness and predictability. When changes appear in the environment, the brain goes into overload. Memory and information-processing structures in the brain decrease or even come to a halt in humans and animals alike. So, avoid introducing change into the household for at least the first six months to a year. But DO introduce novelty. Novelty creates curiosity, learning and even joy. It is acceptable and even recommended to try new treats or a new toy. Try walking down a different street with your dog or teach them a new trick or command. Offer up a new play routine or doggy massage. Brains thrive on novelty and novelty is another element that leads to greater success in and increased bonding with our dogs. Just remember that novelty does not come at the sacrifice of consistency or predictability, rather it enhances them.

In summary, good household management involves consistency, predictability and novelty. Good owners will provide that "goodness of fit" or modify the environment to meet the needs of their dogs even if it takes effort and sacrifice. The more of the BIG THREE provided early in household management, the less needed later once our dogs become our full-fledged family members.

Author: Tania Bruner (aka Crawford's Mom)

GreyHeart Members: Please send me questions about greyhound training, behavior and problem behavior to taniabruner@gmail.com. I will respond to them in our newsletters for everyone's benefit. Feel free to send me topics about which you would like to read as well for future articles.

Our Goofy Greys – Roaching & Derping







Roaching & Derping !!



For the next newsletter, please submit photos of your grey(s) in their Valentine's Day attire. You can either post on FaceBook or e-mail photos to me. ❤️

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 March 15.

