



GreyHeart Greyhound Adoption

Newsletter - Spring 2022

The President “Speaks”

Hello from GreyHeart Headquarters! It’s been an interesting time since we last wrote. As most of you already know, GreyHeart has taken on our first puppy. Little Stevie was born on Jan 1st and is a very special needs pup. After his surgery, he still has a long way to go so please keep him in your thoughts. (More details & photos in article below.)

Our fundraising for Stevie has been very successful and will still continue for his future care which is still unknown at this time. If you are able to donate to his cause and have not had the chance to do so just yet, you can mail your donation directly to: GreyHeart Greyhound Adoption, P.O. Box 530185 Livonia, Mi 48153. Attention “STEVIE”. It’s incredible to see how generous our members (you) have been in time of need. Thank you all!!

Spring time is here once again! Toby has already started his “digging” in the yard that is just starting to turn back to green. Please be aware of open gates from lawn services. It has been a leading cause of greyhound escapes. Please do your best to help keep your grey safe and happy for the upcoming summer.

Our March 26th haul brought in 7 perfect hounds. It took quite a bit of effort to do this. All 7 of these pups had to be fostered before they could be adopted out. Three of the seven pups had to go to another kennel before they were fostered because of lack of foster homes. Lately finding foster homes for our new hounds has been rather difficult. Without solid foster homes, we as an active adoption group cannot continue to move forward. Please consider fostering a retired greyhound on one of our upcoming hauls. And also THANK YOU Susan Black for allowing us to work with you and A Good Spot Kennel in Oxford, Mi.

The article below (The Red Rose of Wheeling) written by Mike and Soya King was their personal experience visiting one of the few Greyhound racetracks still left operational. It is their own personal viewpoint and may differ from others. Although Assi and I have personally experienced similar pleasant visits, I strongly encourage you to visit and spend time educating yourself on the business before forming your own opinion. Please keep in mind if this sport disappears so does our option to adopt one of these marvelous retired greyhounds.

Thanks once again,

Art Zylka, GreyHeart President

February Greyhound Haul

Assi Zylka and Vanessa Rowan drove to Wheeling, W. Virginia on February 9th to pick up several very special pups. In addition to a 2 year old brindle girl, they brought back 2 puppies....a 9 month old and a 5 week old.



Forest Gimp is a 9 month old red male fostered by Vanessa Rowan



CG's Sapphire is a 2 year old brindle female fostered by Laura Buus



Spaz (Stevie Wander) is a 5 week old black male puppy fostered by Dr. Kari Nugent

March Greyhound Haul

It was pretty cold for the 5 male and 2 female hounds we brought in on March 26th. None of them were too happy about spending any time outside. Our amazing drivers were Jim Bartlett, Mike King & Moira Hagan and their equally amazing riders were Stephen Dawley, Ed & Anna Pietrzak and Lee Vedder. A special thanks to Dustin Fitzpatrick for making sure all the hounds had nicely trimmed nails (and lovin' on a few of them!)

Many thanks to Susan Black from A Good Spot Kennel in Oxford who agreed to take 3 of the hounds until they were adopted or found foster homes. This enabled us to bring in a few extra dogs this haul. And a HUGE thank you to Moira Hagan & Stephen Dawley for transporting these 3 dogs from Art & Assi's house to Oxford.

As always, thanks so much to Linda Cliffel and Sunburst Kennels for sending us these wonderful hounds. And also to Art & Assi for all their work arranging the haul and allowing us to use their "heated" garage. I know the dogs appreciated getting warm.



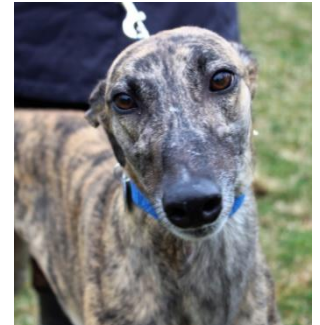
Niles (Frasier's brother) is a male brindle fostered by A Good Spot Kennel



Maverick is a black & white male fostered by Regina Shea



Octavia (Ophelia's sister) is a red female fostered by Yvonne Warner



Ophelia (Octavia's sister) is a brindle female fostered by Yvonne Warner



Frasier ((Nile's brother) is a black male fostered by A Good Spot Kennel



Showstopper (Stopper) is a brindle male fostered by A Good Spot Kennel



Chipper is a red male fostered by Alex Cascio

Stevie Wander

As most of you are aware, we brought in a 5 week old puppy from Wheeling, West Virginia in February with several health issues. Most of us don't get an opportunity to meet a greyhound puppy because they usually stay on the farm with their mom and siblings for the first year. Our intent was to help Stevie get the proper care he needed to become a healthy little pup. Dr. Kari Nugent, DVM (and her dog Todd) from Unleashed Pet Care agreed to foster Stevie while we figured out exactly what his health problems were. Even with his medical issues, he was a normal wiggly greyhound puppy eager to explore and nibble with his baby teeth.

After Stevie arrived he had several seizures and it was suspected that his vision was impaired. Stevie was referred to a Dr. Isaac, a Neurologist at Dogwood Veterinary Referral Center where they ran tests to determine his condition. Stevie's M.R.I. revealed a cyst that was causing pressure on his brain resulting in seizures and vision loss. The decision was made to remove the cyst and surgery was scheduled for March 15th. The expectation was that he should have a pretty good chance of a better life if all went well.

Stevie's surgery was a success! His cyst was drained and removed and he was on the road to recovery. His recovery continues to go well however he still has some visual deficits but seems to handle them fairly well. At this time, we don't know what type of care and/or expenses he will continue to need in the future. Stevie has a follow-up appointment on April 15th with the Neurologist to see if he will be getting an increase in his activity. He is currently on crate rest when not supervised

One of our current GreyHeart members, Shannon Cramer is currently fostering Stevie. As a Vet Tech, Shannon has the experience and knowledge to help Stevie continue to recover. His housebreaking is going great and he started asking to go outside. He is learning basic commands and picks up learning faster than expected.

.GreyHeart began fundraising to help cover the cost of Stevie's surgery and post-op care which to date is about \$6,500. We have come to learn just how big the "Heart" is in GreyHeart. So far through generous donations we have collected \$5,700. In addition, we have received donations from other greyhound groups across the country who have learned about Stevie's story and wanted to help. Big thank yous to the the following groups: Greyhound Pets of America (MO), National Greyhound Association, Greyhound Pets of America (MA).

Stevie update (4/12/22): Stevie has been having numerous seizures for the past few days. The vets are continuing to prescribe different meds with the hope of getting them under control but so far have not been able to do so. Please keep Stevie in your thoughts and prayers. We will keep you advised of his progress.



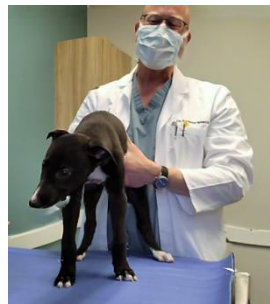
Stevie



With Dr. Nugent



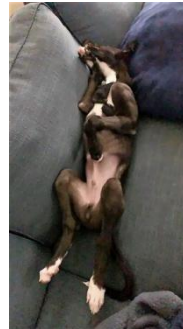
Stevie & Todd



Dr. Isaac, Neurologist



With Art



Pure greyhound style



With Assi



Stevie & Todd



Stevie & Todd



with Shannon

The Red Rose of Wheeling by Soya Abeona Lee (with commentary and zingers from Michael King)

What started as a harmless mini road trip with my mother to somewhere in the lower mitten quickly turned into a comedy of scheduling gaffs. As it turned out, mom decided to stay home with her poodle and Michael stepped in to keep me company along the way. Michael suggested we head to Wheeling to watch greyhounds performing at their athletic best. Brilliant! We touched base with Art & Assi to get the lowdown and who we might contact for a possible tour behind the scenes. After getting the lay of the land, Art casually inserted, “what size vehicle are you taking?” So, we ended up combining a weekend of greyhound races with a hound extraction mission for a lucky 2-year-old girl bent on retirement. We headed out to Wheeling early on a radiant Saturday morning (one of the first in recent memory) loaded with snacks, coffee, and braced ourselves for a 5 hour-and-some-change commute.

For those who haven't had the opportunity to visit Wheeling, here's a little recon in case you plan a trip. Races are from Wednesday to Sunday with roughly 15 competitions daily in divisions called grades. The six grades are A, B, C, D, E and M. The winners advance one grade until reaching grade "A", with super hounds reaching "AA". Vanessa's Carlos Gomez is such a hound, and I believe he was wearing a cape when he came to GreyHeart. Greyhounds who fail to finish 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in 3 consecutive meets, get voted off the island to lower grade levels until it makes sense to release them into retirement. We had the opportunity to watch races in the AA, B and C divisions. Surprisingly, the AA vs C grade races were not much different in terms of finishing times. AA races may finish at 29.3 sec and C races might finish at 30.5seconds. The track in Wheeling is 548 yards (standard is 550 +/-) and has an unusual egg-shape configuration. Why it is egg shaped, no one seems to know. I suspect it was dimensioned on a Sunday morning by a couple of fellas who fell heavy on the drink the previous night. To put it in perspective, imagine running approximately 5.5 football fields (5.02 Canadian) end to end in 30 seconds! That's how fast these guys are tearing up the turf, chasing after what appears to be a white gardening glove tied to the end of a stick.

The grandstand viewing area is enclosed and climate controlled, with TV monitor arrays throughout announcing initial athlete stats, odds, and a menagerie of numbers and factoids that we had no mental capacity nor the appropriate college degree to understand. There is also a spacious and well-appointed outdoor apron seating area, with picnic tables and benches to watch at ground level. This is where you get the best beauty shots, video, and a much closer and visceral experience of the race.

After the “Call to Post” trumpets around the venue, the hounds are paraded along the outer rim of the track in front of the grandstand before being loaded into the numbered starter boxes. The excitement starts immediately as the racers whine and bark in anticipation of the lure queuing up for action. The rail driven lure turns the corner near the captive hounds at about 40+ mph, closely followed by a sudden cannon burst of released greyhounds and churning dirt. If you have even the slightest delay in hitting the button on your camera, you'll come away with a houndless picture of empty boxes with the doors open. We strategically positioned ourselves between races at various parts of the track perimeter to savor the power of the rippling muscles from the starting gates, straightaways, the curves, and an elevated view of the track from inside the building.

We were fortunate to be granted a special guest pass to view the goings on in the paddock area, where we observed (and petted) the hounds as they prepared to race or were just coming off the track. This

unique behind the scenes opportunity provided us a viewport into the gentle engagement between trainer and hound in a coordinated orchestration of comings and goings. The military grade bustle of activity included post-race cool down walks and baths, muzzles being scrubbed clean, brushes and water to clean the dogs, with treats and praise given to them before being placed back into crates for rest or transport.

What a phenomenal experience to enjoy the masters of the racetrack in their element! This encounter provided us another dimension to the breed that is a vast departure from the furry clownmanship we are used to seeing and that seems to accompany greyhound retirement. It's certainly evident in this environment that these beautiful creatures are perfectly designed for raw speed and power. It is also an interesting dichotomy that one minute they are a cute doe-eyed cuddle baby, and in the next moment can go into full on racing mode and compete with Olympic-grade prowess and vigor. Perhaps this feature is seen in other hunting breeds? Not sure of this, but I do know that their On/Off personality is rather fascinating. To watch them at their craft left us in wonder and awe. After dinner and beers at a local pub and an accelerated loss of \$20 at the hands of the one-armed bandits (slot machines), we ended day 1.

The next day we met our contact at the Beach Bottom kennel, which is about 20 minutes north along the river from the racetrack. A security guard signed us in, and we were navigated to the kennel to meet the new retiree. It did not come as a surprise that our arrival was met by a cacophony of excited barking as we were introduced to many of the hounds.

Retirement for these guys may come in the form of diminished placement in races and/or age. Here we met Red Rose, a 60-pound fawn female who was ready for her ride home. This girl had the good fortune to be selected for retirement and placed in GreyHeart's care. With ID papers in hand, she was loaded into the truck (aka Abby's mobile bedroom) to embark on a new adventure.

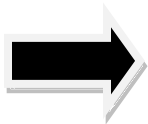
There is a secret satisfaction in introducing a premium and programmed athlete to the simple pleasures of civilian life. No more schooling is necessary, unless you feel like doing zoomies and laps around the yard. No more regimented training to achieve top speeds, unless a squirrel that has been vexing you is on your side of the fence. I imagine hijacking every soft surface in the new house has to be something special for these guys!

This weekend we got to celebrate Red Rose and the blossoming of her next phase of life. We were happy to be a small part of introducing her to the GreyHeart family.





Red Rose



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

Upcoming Events

- ▶ Meet & Greets (Specific maps/locations can be found on the GreyHeart website)

There are no Meet & Greets scheduled at this time. 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 June 1st, 2022.**

