

**Greyhounds Pets of America-Northern California (GPA-NC)/
Greyhound Adoption California (GACA)
Newsletter, Spring 2008**

Happily Home!

Where does the time go? While there are as many answers to that question as there are people to hear it, there's no doubt what's been keeping GACA volunteers busy since our last newsletter — matching dogs and families. Here is the list of adoptions since our last publication:

- *Jada* was adopted by Michael Garcia.
- *Lucy* and *Ricky* were adopted by Debby and George Chunn.
- *Cinder* and *Moose* were adopted by Tal Mashhadian and Rebecca Dowell.
- *Homer* is happy in the home of Paul Forbes.
- *Lexi* was adopted by Steve and Becky Lincicum.
- *Witty* was adopted by Brandon and Rene Shoemaker and their kids.
- *Zoe* was welcomed into the Stroshine household.
- *Jackson* is sharing his retired life with Sharon Airey.
- *Kimi* was adopted by Yogi & Mark Yoneyama.
- *Raleigh* thanks Dona & David Stroshine for giving him a wonderful home.
- *Mcduff* joined the family of Mark & Lisa Sears.
- *Caroline* was adopted by Hiroko Naito.
- *Alexis* was welcomed by several 4-legged siblings into the Breden family.
- *Sugarfree Becky* joins her half-brother Sugarfree Spencer and the Huculaks.
- *Roxy* was adopted by Alison & Aaron Alpar.
- *Shady* found a forever home with Ryan Eudy and greyhound brother JayZ.
- *Phoenix* is living with Peggy Richardson and her cats.
- *Abita Vera* was adopted by Kathrin Nikolussi.
- *Nigel* is helping Adam Borut at the vet clinic.

Zula, was adopted by the Dowd family. While Zula is the first greyhound for the family, Dr. Dowd is well-acquainted with the needs of greyhounds — for the past six years, she and her vet clinic staff have provided outstanding medical care to dozens of our GACA foster greyhounds.

As part of the Solvang Greyhound Fest held this past February, two-dozen greyhounds were delivered to California, six of which found forever homes with GACA adopters, including:

- *Opal's Diamond* – adopted by Megan Stiehr.
- *Rip* – who belongs to Debbie Dillon.
- *Lilly* – who joins foster extraordinaire Tim Shortnacy and his four-legged crew.
- *Moe* – who traveled on to Oregon to be with the O'Neal family.

Max – adopted by Mora Gozani.

Jack Foley – who now helps placement rep Ashley Westfall educate new adopters.

Saturday, May 10, 2008 another group of dogs arrived from Oklahoma and found new families. They included:

Fonzie, who joins Cis Sparks and her 4-legged family.

Jasper, who was adopted by Matt Schwinn.

Sophie, who is living with Robb Johns and Edna de Guzman.

Special thanks go out to an exceptional group of adopters who were willing to give forever homes to senior dogs. Let's give a special "paws-up" to:

Miranda Peacock, who adopted *Lady*

Freddie Sainz, who adopted *Donna* and *Winks*

Abbie Oursler, who adopted *Shiloh* and *Derby*

Cindi and Don Luck, who adopted *Pepper*

Why adopt a senior dog?

It's no secret it can be difficult to find homes for older dogs, but the fact of the matter is, some people seek out older animals because of the special benefits adopting them can bring. To understand this idea better, we spoke with Freddie Sainz, who has spent the last 16 years loving, fostering, and adopting greyhounds.

Q: You've adopted several seniors. What motivates you to take in older dogs?

They are so stoic and loving. They ask nothing but love. They have been loved and have lost the family or person loving them for one reason or another and are lost souls. One thing about the elder greys - they never need to be trained – they train us. How much easier can it get?

I have a twelve year old I've had just three months. Donna was in a loving home with two other greys for over eight years. Sometimes she just stands looking at me as if asking "what has happened?" However, when I come home Donna runs to me with tail wagging, smiling that grey smile and so glad I'm home.

Q: Are the rewards of adopting a senior dog worth the emotional investment, considering you might only have a couple of years with a senior compared to a decade with a younger dog?

Yes – unequivocally yes! I have been in greyhound rescue since 1992, fostering, adopting and working with the greyhounds. My motivation in adopting the

seniors came within the first year of working with these greyt animals. My third foster was an eleven year old female who ran all her races and had been used for breeding. I had Gracie one year and I wouldn't have missed that year for anything. She had happy tail and every day I came home I had to grab her tail so she wouldn't paint the walls red. When she ran she splayed her legs and hopped up and down. I swear she was part kangaroo. She loved the other greyts, the cats and everyone she met. Since Gracie, I've always had an elder greyt with my family.

Granted it is luck of the draw. I had one elder greyt for only two weeks and another for only three months. I've had those who've lived two to three years. I've got one old boy now who has just turned 13. When I got him, we didn't think he'd last the year. He could hardly keep his back end up and he was thin as a rail. After a year of therapy including homeopathic treatments, chiropractor and acupuncture, he has really done well. I sit with his head in my lap and when I quit petting him he "slugs" me. He has been the biggest challenge of any greyt I've had and I love it. I look at him every night and ask for a few more months.

The heartbreak and tears for each dog that passes is still not enough to have me change my love of the elder greyts. The rewards are definitely worth the emotional investment.

Q: What are your secrets to helping a dog live a happy and healthy life as a senior?

I am huge on natural food and care. In regards to food, luckily there are several excellent kibbles out there. I feed mine Evo by Innova – as close to raw food as there is. I mix some of their canned food with water in a blender and add to the kibble so they swallow properly, sometimes adding yogurt or cottage cheese to settle their tummies. All their food dishes are 19" high.

Also, there are many Greyhound support groups online when we need to discuss difficult health issues such as cancer, dementia, enlarged heart, paralysis of the larynx, etc.

Q: Anything else you'd like to share?

I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has adopted a greyhound and kept it for its full life span. You are very special. Thank you.

I also want to say thank you to those of you who decided that you could not keep your greyhound for whatever reason. Those of us who have adopted your greyts will love and care for them for the rest of their lives — no matter how long or how short.

Looking for a good read this summer?

We often get asked about how good greyhounds are with kids. The book [Living with Kids and Dogs...Without Losing Your Mind](#) by Colleen Pelar answers many questions for parents and covers topics like bite prevention, spotting serious behavior problems, and how to explain a dog's death. It also discusses issues that are common with different developmental stages of children from babies to teenagers.

Of special mention is the safety exercise the author encourages kids to practice around dogs: "be a tree". The idea is to teach a child, when approached by a dog, to stand still with their feet planted hip-width apart (for "strong roots"). The kids must "fold their branches" by clasping their hands together in front of their bodies. And, finally, they need to "watch their roots grow", by looking down at their feet. This exercise keeps the kids' minds, hands, and eyes busy with specific tasks that require little movement and allows the approaching dog time to relax and walk away. For more information, check-out Ms. Pelar's must-read book and website at www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com.

Greyhound Talk Radio!

Tired of the same old stuff coming at you over the airwaves? Tune in to the weekly broadcast, *Greyhounds Make Great Pets*, sponsored by Greyhound Pets of America! It is a program devoted to discussing topics of interest for volunteers involved in the greyhound adoption process. For more information and to hear past broadcasts, visit www.greyhoundsmakegreatpets.org.

Greyhounds Make Great Pets Forum

Last year, GPA National created a web-based [forum](#) where adopters can share information regarding greyhounds. If you want to know about how others deal with such things as medical issues, training and behavior, hound welfare, food and diet issues, events, and transports, please visit <http://greyhoundsmakegreatpets.com>. GPA chapters, including ours, have their own sections in the forum where they can share chapter-specific information, such as people needing dog sitters. While the forum is open to all, in order to use the forum, you will need register. A password is required to use the GPA – Northern California section of the forum; please e-mail 2greys@mindspring.com if you would like to have access to this section.

Got AAA?

Did you know that at more than 1,000 pharmacies throughout Northern California, Nevada and Utah, AAA members can benefit from a discount on many prescription medications that are not covered by insurance? Savings average 35% on generic drugs and 15% on brand name medications. Pharmacies include participating Long's, Rite Aid, Safeway, Target and Save-On, as well as many others. To obtain a discount, members should present a valid AAA card before paying for prescriptions. I thank our local pharmacist for bringing this to my attention—pain meds for greyhounds like piroxicam and tramadol can be expensive.

Events

- Greyhound Adoption California participated in the Woof-to-Woof event benefiting *Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired* on Saturday June 7 in Scotts Valley. We met a lot of nice folks and their critters. Thanks to all of the volunteers who help out.
- Greyhound Adoption California will host a booth promoting greyhound adoption at the Campbell Highland Games on Saturday, June 21, 2008, in Campbell, CA (see <http://www.campbellgames.com/>). If you and your greyhound would like to help by telling people about greyhounds at this fun event, please contact Sherrlyn at SLANCASTER@comcast.net.
- Our next transport of greyhounds from Oklahoma will be Saturday, June 21. Details and location are not yet known.
- Saturday, October 18, 2008 is the date for the next Greyhound Adoption California Picnic. It will again be held at Amador Valley Community Park, Pleasanton, California. Hope to see you there.
- Check our events page for information about recurring GPA-NC/GACA events such as the weekly Saturday meet and greets at the Modesto PetSmart, the 2nd Saturday of the month show & tell at a San Jose Petco, and the 3rd Sunday of the month greyhound walk in Pleasanton Sports Park.
- Do you know of any events that would be good show & tell opportunities? Are you interested in doing a show & tell at your local pet store? If so, please let us know.
- Missed Solvang this year? For more information on the 2009 Solvang Greyhound fest, see www.solvanggreyhoundfest.org.

Current Board Members

President: Jim Shofstahl

Vice President: Jill Mazzei

Treasurer: Sherrlyn Lancaster

Webmaster/Secretary: Jennifer Morales

Foster Coordinator: Carolyn Koester

Merchandise/Picnic Coordinator: Nina Denegri

Board Members at Large: Jack Fishbaugh, Delene and Richard Dunne, Scott Sanders

We hope this has been an informative and enjoyable. Please let us know if you have ideas or contributions for future issues. Send ideas to: Rachel Mittler, Newsletter Editor, at ghoundnews@gmail.com.

Have a greyt spring!