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Greyt News



Official Newsletter of Greyhound Pets of America – Northern Virginia
The Greyhound Retirement Specialists™

Greetings GPA-NoVA Members and Friends -

Happy New Year to all of you Wonderful Greyhound Enthusiasts!

And welcome to a new decade full of infinite possibilities! 2009 left a memorable impression by delivering one of the biggest snowfalls this area has seen in years. The first couple of days were practically magical as we were encased in big blanket of the fluffy white stuff... and then reality set in.... cabin fever ... and the dreaded dig out(s) to prepare for the work-week ahead. While one of my greys thoroughly enjoyed leaping through snow drifts, the other was a little less enthusiastic, settling for taking care of business and promptly heading for home.

As I reflect on 2009, GPA-NoVA had an awesome year. Some highlights were:

- Increased adoptions;
- Well attended events and meet/greets; and,
- Motivated and enthusiastic volunteers.

In 2009:

- GPA-NoVA placed more ‘transplant’ greys then I can remember as people moved to the area for work and found themselves overwhelmed with lifestyle changes. We also found ourselves rehoming some of our local greyhounds, which is, unfortunately, inevitable as adoption numbers increase. We’ve been blessed with fantastic foster families working their magic on these ‘temporary’ kids as everyone focused to find a forever home for each and every one of them. Currently, two boys are in foster care. Soon they will make their debut in a GPA-Announce – your next best friend might just be an email away.....
- Our meet and greets in Springfield, Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax have not only managed to raise some much-needed funds, the exposure has been invaluable to educate the public about greyhound companions. As a result, our adoption numbers increased.
- In December, GPA-NoVA hosted another successful gift wrapping weekend at Border’s Books Store in Falls Church and raised about \$400! Thanks to everyone who showed up to wrap and spread some cheer with their greyhound(s) during the busy holiday season.

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2009 was a difficult year in many ways, as the economy suffered and people struggled to maintain equilibrium during uncertain times. This is why I find it even more amazing that people still managed to support GPA-NoVA in so many ways. I look forward to the year ahead, with renewed commitment to GPA, to placing greyhounds in wonderful homes, and to supporting you, as you make a difference through GPA-NoVA. Some 2010 teasers:

- In 2010, the *first-ever* Grapehounds Wine Tour Weekend is coming to Virginia and GPA-NoVA is a founding supporter. We will need your help to make this event a huge success.
- Please bring your greyhound(s) to one or more of the monthly meet and greets. People love meeting them and the hounds enjoy socializing with other hounds.
- GPA-NoVA is always looking for volunteers to attend events throughout the year such as the Reston Pet Fiesta, the Falls Church Festival, and Capital Pride, to name a few. Greyhounds are always a popular attraction and (most of them) love the attention.
- GPA-NoVA's annual meeting is coming up. It's a fantastic opportunity to socialize, do some shopping, raise any concerns, share your ideas, make suggestions, and even run for the board! We have a couple of positions open and would love to have you run!

I can't thank you enough for your continued support, your thoughts, and for improving the lives of so many greyhounds. We are their voice, their hope, their future. We *are* the difference.

Hug those hounds!

Angela, President, GPA-NoVA
And Ariel and Haley!



DECEMBER ADOPTIONS

Adopted! "GLS Infatuation" (now Shyla) - Philip Morici and Jodi Natovitz

Adopted! "Fat Free" (now Abby) - Mittereder Family

VOLUNTEER HEARTBEATS

-- As told by Kathe Fritz --

September 10th 1990 began my passionate journey into adopting retired racing greyhounds. That was the day my life changed. A large fawn male joined our family of two cocker spaniels. His name was Soda Pop. Aptly named after coming in the house and taking a soda pop bottle out of the recycle bin. My involvement with greyhounds started immediately. Soda Pop was a tremendous ambassador. I could take him anywhere. He was like a magnet for people. I started helping with phone interviews, home visits, and meet & greets.

At the time, we were a sub division of GPA Wheeling Downs under the guidance of Lou Batdorf. There were 2 of us then doing everything. Phone interviews, home visits, ordering dogs, coordinating their pick up, fostering dogs, and helping new adopters with any problems they had with their dogs. All adoptions took place at my home. My weekends and week nights were consumed with greyhounds. I soon learned that 2 people could not keep this pace up forever, and started getting new adopters involved in the process.

Within 2 - 3 years, we had enough volunteers to form what is now known as GPA/Northern Virginia. We became a chapter in April 1999. I have been officially on the board in different capacities till 2004 when I decided it would be a good idea to have "new blood" with new ideas on the board. Since then, I have been so proud of the people who have stepped forward to continue my dream and make it their own. GPA/NOVA is a very family oriented group, just as I had hoped I wanted it to be. Caring people who cared about one another and their dogs. This, I believe, makes our group very special.

Since 1990 I have had the privilege of having 17 greyhounds grace my life. Each one has taught me something very special in relation to greyhounds. From separation anxiety, counter surfing, destruction of furniture, house breaking, fear based actions, and medical problems. But most of all, they have taught me what unconditional love is. They have made me laugh, cry, and get angry all the while teaching me the reasons why. They are my miracles that God has so blessed me with, each and every one of them.

As I have said earlier that 17 greyhounds graced my life, I need to tell you that 8 of them have been senior dogs (9 years or older). My most recent one is Uggi whom I got in March of this year at age 10 ½. Each of these 8 dogs have been a very special blessing to me. All of them arrived unexpectedly for one reason or another. I knew they were supposed to be here with me in my life. It was not an easy decision to increase my pack, but I took on the challenge, and opened my heart to all of them. I thank God everyday that I listened to my heart. Each of these dogs needed me and I them. If there is one thing I can leave with anyone who reads this is that we never know when a dog needs us. If he/she comes open your heart and take them in. I can promise you that you will never regret doing it. The time may be short for having them, but they will make up for all that lost time with you.

My heartfelt thanks to my Greyhounds past and present: Soda Pop, Star, Shadow, Drake, Tigra, Hyster, Zoe, Legs, Taz, Sweet Tea, Traveler, Snowman, Tux, General, Major, Chilly and Uggi. And my Cocker Spaniels: Shannon, Checkers and Stuff. My Whippet Pipi, and my Hairless Chinese Cresteds: Snug, Gizzy and Chino. And my thanks to all who have opened their home and hearts to these incredible dogs.

ADOPTION STORIES

-- As Told by Ginny Mittereder --

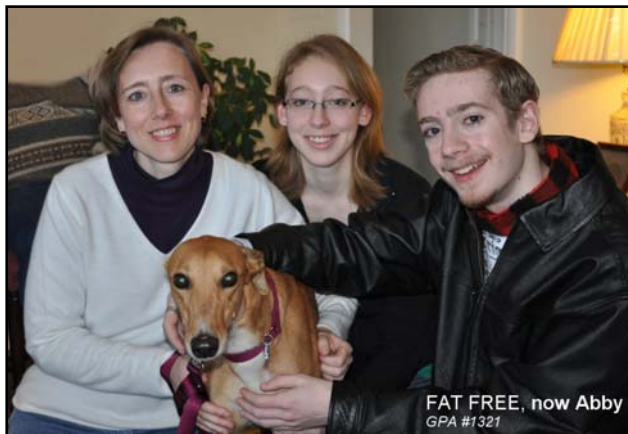
When our family was first asked to write an article for this newsletter we were asked to write about our experience with greyhounds. I really think though that it is more a matter of our greyhound's experience with us.

Our interest in greyhounds began when we moved into our neighborhood about 13 years ago. A beautiful greyhound named Bullet lived down the street. Bullet was a black & white striped brindle. He almost looked like a zebra! We immediately fell in love with him. His owner Carol, now a very dear friend, taught us all about greyhounds. We had a Cocker Spaniel at the time and when she died we knew what our next dog was going to be! We just couldn't wait to get our own greyhound, especially since we already knew soooo much about them...

Then Mya came along. We were given a fiery red greyhound with a personality to match her fur. Mya was sassy, quirky and lots of fun and taught us everything that we didn't know about greyhounds! Mya's lesson #1: Female greyhounds are drama queens. On the rare occasions that Mya's water bowl was empty she would very slowly and painstakingly lick the dry bowl over and over occasionally coughing to indicate how dry and parched she was! Mya's lesson #2: Never leave a Costco pack of muffins on top of your kitchen counter. (You know, the 12 pack with muffins the size of your head.) We came home one time to find them not only gone from the counter but kindly distributed all over the house. We each had one carefully placed in our beds. She had placed one in each of her beds. Several were in between the cushions of the couch. All were accounted for and all were completely intact, not smooshed! I think all Mya wanted us to understand was that "If you leave things on the counter I WILL take them." When we forgot she occasionally reminded us by doing the same thing with granola bars and bananas. All were always accounted for and completely wrapped and intact.

Mya has since moved on to the rainbow bridge and now we have our new girl Abby. As of this writing we have had Abby 10 days. She also has fiery red fur but a completely different personality. She is such a big part of the family already. Needless to say there is very little on the kitchen counter and the water bowl is always full. We learned our lesson. Thanks Mya! (It also turns out Abby is Mya's second cousin which makes her extra special!)

Ginny, Lara & Dan Mittereder



FAT FREE, now Abby
GPA #1321



GLS INFATUATION, now Shyla
GPA #1320





Farewell, master, yet not farewell;
Where I go, ye, too, shall dwell.
I am gone before your face,
A moment's time, a little space.
When ye come where I have stepped
Ye will wonder why ye wept.
--Edwin Arnold

Our sincere condolences to those who have recently lost a beloved companion

Mya - The Mittereder Family

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Saturday, January 2: PetSmart Meet & Greet - Springfield, 11a-1p
- ❖ Saturday, January 16: Books-A-Million Meet & Greet - Alexandria, 1p-3p
- ❖ Saturday, January 23: Wylie Wagg Meet & Greet - Fairfax, 12p-3p

GPA-NoVA Board of Directors: Angela Kummel; Chris Cutler; Regan Mahoney; Lisa Read; Natalie York
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