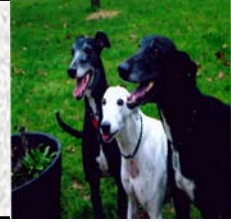




Steel City Greyhounds Greys' Praise

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From the desk of
Marci Anderson, Presi-

Early in May, Steel City Greyhounds was contacted by Greyhound Pets of America National about a track closing in Connecticut. We knew we were facing an emergency situation for the very first time since our inception. Plainfield, Connecticut race track closed on May 14th and left approximately 1,100 greyhounds to an unknown future. We did not want to wait for a haul to be organized and eventually make its way toward Pittsburgh since we knew that every second mattered for these beautiful creatures. So, with the help of David Anderson, Patrick and Jonathon Gribbin, Bob Miller, and Chuck and Leslie Rankin, we were able to pick up eleven greyhounds and eventually give them forever homes. These amazing volunteers drove over 1,000 miles to and from Connecticut to bring back as many greyhounds as our group could handle. Many of the dogs were transported to other tracks and the remaining dogs were retired. I am happy to report that when I made one last phone call to Kim Reese, of GPA/Connecticut, the week of May 16th (to offer one more run to the track), she said that there were **no more dogs to rescue!** While we all know that greyhound rescue is on-going and many tracks face challenges of moving hundreds of greyhounds quite frequently, this emergency brought out the best in our volunteers. It is our civic duty to constantly find homes for these dogs and when the pressure is on, we all need to pitch in for the welfare of the retired racing greyhounds. Every chance you get, please promote greyhound adoption. Thank you to everyone who drove the distance to save these wonderful dogs and I want to say a special thank you to the eleven adoption families who took a Connecticut dog into their home and heart. (Judy Adams, Jamie Bender, Scott and Jennifer Boeringer, Brian and Allison Durica, Joe and Allison Levkulich, Marcia Lindbloom, Bob Miller, Regina Santi/Mark Szafranski, Paul and Kathy Spurgeon, Fred and Audrey Temple, Dan and Lisa Votodian).

In Other News..... A special **thank you** goes out to everyone who did a Meet- N- Greet at one of the **Petco** Stores this spring! **Petco** held a "Spring" A"Pet" event and the local stores raised \$2,180 for SCG! A special thanks goes out to the Monroeville **Petco** and the Waterworks **Petco** in Fox Chapel who donated a majority of their funds to us.

Coming soon! Mark your calendar! Greyhound Planet Week: September 12th — 18th. This year, please help us support greyhound adoption in our area by volunteering for a meet-n-greet that week. Local **Petco** stores will invite us to participate and donate a portion of the proceeds to us. It would be "grey" if we could show our support to **Petco** and have volunteers in those stores every day of the event.

Save the dates:

September 2—4: National Greyhound Adoption Conference: Tampa, Florida www.greyhoundpets.org

September 12 — 18: Greyhound Planet Week

September 28: Motorcycle Ride: Springdale to Monroeville **Petco** (More information will be available soon on our website.)

October 7 — 9: Dewey Beach Greyhound Gathering: Dewey Beach, Delaware
www.adopt-a-greyhound.org

Anyone interested in becoming a SCG volunteer, please send us an e-mail at: info@steelcitygreyhounds.org The above listed events are all Meet-N-Greet opportunities and we need volunteers to help spread the good news about greyhounds! Please let us know if you are able to help.



A Touch of Grey

A New Dad's Story



My name is Bob Miller. I am a 40-year-old divorced father of three, two boys, Michael (12) and Bobby (8), and my 18-year-old princess Kristen. I drive a hazardous materials trailer truck 40+ hours a week. I help out on a local motorcycle magazine with events and write the occasional article. I work a second job 1 or 2 days a week and I own

a 100-year-old house that requires constant attention. So, you may ask, why would someone like me want a Greyhound? Well, at least I wondered myself. Two years ago I met my first Greyhound at the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show and was instantly taken. So was my youngest son, who, by the way, has the will and memory of an elephant. When he insisted that we return to this year's show, I knew we were in trouble. But there they were again, and I started to read all I could about Greys and asked everyone I knew what they knew of the breed. Immediately, my reservations started with the breed's stereotype of not being good with children. I had heard that since they'd never been exposed to kids that they just didn't care for them, and that having a Grey in a home with kids meant extra-special care. After assuring myself that I was up to the task, I started the adoption process and we investigated our first meet-n-greet with Steel City Greyhounds at the Petco in Monroeville. I went right to work questioning the real owners (parents) of Greys. Everyone was very open, honest, and helpful. I was absolutely amazed at the look in their eyes when they spoke of their Greys. It was a look of such pride and well, a passion for the breed. I thought "these people are real fanatics!" However, as I was investigating, my boys were off getting a one-on-one experience with a warm and fuzzy lad of their own. He was a striking creature with a coal black coat and white chest with eyes to melt even the most ice-hearted soul. I have to say that I've never believed in love at first sight, but I witnessed it that day in my sons and our Cody. The deal was sealed when he laid on the floor next to me and put his head on my leg. Wow, what a suck-up! On the way home, the boys pleaded with me to adopt Cody — "Please dad, he's the one". So, a week later Cody moved in, and I thought my work was just beginning. I wanted him to be comfortable and happy, but I wanted my kids to be safe and happy with this big, skinny dog. After our first week together my fears simply vaporized! He loved ALL the kids and the feeling was definitely mutual. We started out with a crate and a very strict set of rules which after a month, have all gone by the wayside. Cody is our best buddy, especially mine. Our walks are just what the doctor ordered for this tired, old trucker and a more affectionate and protective friend for my kids I just couldn't ask for. We play in the yard, we walk and sleep side by side everyday. He has also spun a web of affection throughout our neighborhood. He's adored by everyone for his gentle and outgoing personality. In fact, I've had several people

say that they're envious of the relationship we all have. I hope that some of these things strike a nerve with fellow Grey parents. Because, I feel fortunate to have this former athlete sharing our lives and believe that everyone of every age should have a *touch of Grey* in their lives. **Enjoy!**
UPDATE: SCG is please to announce that Bob recently adopted "Harley" a Plainfield, CT dog! You go Bob!

GOING THE EXTRA DISTANCE FOR AN EXTRA EFFORT GREYHOUND

Those of us who take pride in matching hounds and homes are always relieved when we have made a good adoption decision. And even though it happens infrequently, there are occasions when a greyhound will be returned to an adoption group for any number of reasons. Some people call these hounds "bounces", but I prefer to call them the "extra effort" greyhounds. Iruska Duel



Fuel, "Duely" certainly earned that description! Duely was adopted and returned by two families in his native state of Kansas before he made his way east to Wheeling in search of a new home. It seems that Duely had a plan and despite the best intentions of the humans he trusted to find him a home, they had been unable to find the right match.

Shortly after Duely arrived in Wheeling, I brought him into the adoption program and quickly found him a home with a wonderful family who adored him! I thought, at last, that Duely was finally where he wanted to be! But, after a few weeks, Duely was unhappy again and had made it clear that his search for a forever home was not over just yet!

Duely and I spent a lot of time together while he was waiting for a new home and the bond we felt was mutual. I briefly entertained the thought of adopting Duely, but I knew his opinion of other dogs would make it impossible to live with my collection of canines that included three greyhounds and a mixed breed from hell. Any anyway, our home was already three dogs over the one dog limit! So Duely and I continue to enjoy the time we spent together (Duely on his back while I rubbed his stomach) and looked forward to the day when he would find a forever home. That home eventually became available when Dale Higgins and Kim Patrick came to meet Duely. Duely responded to them in a way I hadn't seen before and something told me that he knew Dale and Kim were what he needed. I have to admit there were some tears when I said goodbye to Duely. I was sad to see him leave, but I was also very happy that he was finally going home.

A few months after Duely was adopted, I went to visit him. It was quite a reunion, and I don't know who was more excited.... Duely or me! It was nice to finally see him so happy and content. Kim took a photo of Duely with me and when I look at his face, it reminds me that patience, understanding and trust are important ingredients in the adoption of an extra effort greyhound. *Kyle Catanzarite*

Living Under (with) a Shadow

We did not set out looking for a dog — we had a senior dog, Chelsea, at home (a mixed breed shelter pup) whose health was declining, and we had not actively been looking for another dog.

I am the Communications Coordinator at Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park. Last June, our newly formed Pet Ministry sponsored a Pet Fair on the church grounds. I went there to take photos for our paper and website, taking my youngest son along for company. To make a long story short — there was Shadow (Picos Serenity at that time) with her little adoption vest on. My son sat on the ground and she sat next to him and just leaned on him! She chose us — what could we do? We adopted her on July 2. Chelsea passed away on November 1st, and Shadow mourned along with us. It has now been a year since we adopted Shadow and we are so amazed at how much a part of the family she is! Her temperament is quiet and a little shy, but she has come a long way since we got her. Sometimes I wonder if she missed the companionship of other greyhounds — she doesn't really like the boisterousness of most other-breed dogs.

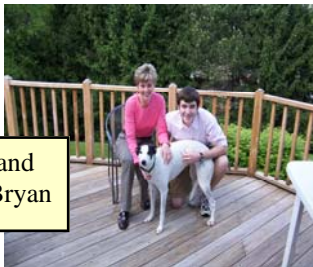
Christ Church hosted its second annual Pet Fair on June 25th and we are going to take Shadow there and see if she chooses a Grey to be her buddy. That's how we would adopt another Greyhound — with Shadow's permission :-)

We'll keep you posted!

Lisa

PS. We did not adopt another greyhound but have another Shadow story..... The other day I let

her into the (fenced) yard early in the morning and there was a rabbit. Shadow took off after it and I watched in horror as the two of them were streaks of lightning zig zagging their way around the yard. Shadow was much faster than the rabbit, of course, and this was the first rabbit that didn't seem to understand that it could squeeze through the fence. Next thing I knew, Shadow had picked up the rabbit in her mouth....but here's what happened next: she looked stunned! All of those years chasing the bunny and here she got it! I was yelling "NO, NO, SHADOW!!" at the top of my lungs and the rabbit started screaming, which further surprised Shadow — then she carefully put the rabbit down and let it take off (this time just slamming through the fence!) I couldn't believe it. I am so proud of Shadow for practicing "Catch and Release!"



Lisa and son Bryan

Hunter

I'm

gazing out of my office window and watching a rewarding sight. Our recently adopted (6 weeks ago) greyhound, "Hunter" is chasing a squeaky ball and then a Frisbee, catching it in mid-air. Finally he takes a



break from the heat by stepping into the wading pool, splashing water, biting at it and then sticking his head under the water to retrieve a ball. He is a sweet, smart, playful, yet regal animal.

My husband and I had discussed adopting a rescued Greyhound for approximately 2 years. We attended the Home and Garden Show this spring and spent some valuable, informative time with the volunteers from Steel City Greyhounds. We nervously completed the adoption application and were interviewed via a phone call. We then arranged for an opportunity to meet "Twin Blaze." He seemed sweet, but very shy and sad, almost fragile. Jack and I were very, very anxious. Would our other dogs accept "Hunter"? Would our cats be safe? How would Hunter adapt to living in a home after living in a cage? Would he learn how to play? Kyle was wonderful answering our voicemails and emails. We prepared for his homecoming. We read the "Greyhound for Dummies" book. We bought 2 extra large dog beds, a pen for the foyer for his first few days, while he became acclimated to his new home and the recommended dog food and yogurt.

It was an intimidating experience for "Twin Blaze" now "Hunter." He came home to 3 Labs and multiple cats. We have approximately 1 acre of our property fenced. My husband and I took time off from work to support Hunter through his first 2 weeks of acclimation to his new home and family. At first he loved the outdoors and spent a much time outside as the weather would permit. He stayed as far away from the house as possible, only coming in to eat and sleep. We were distressed, but Kyle supported us through this time. Slowly he began exploring the house and became comfortable with each room. He did this through his acute sense of smell. He was easily scared over new items or any changes in his environment. We learned he doesn't like storms, but he found a refuge in the master bath. With each passing day, Hunter learns, experiences and loves life. It is a JOY to watch him chase a ball, roll in the grass and play in his pool. We are so glad that we opened our hearts and our home to Hunter. We look forward to adopting another greyhound in the future. Kudos to Steel City Greyhounds and the important service they provide. *Pam and Jack Cummings and Hunter*

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The Dog Daze of Summer are upon us and boy has it been hot! Let me take this time to remind everyone how important it is for greyhounds to stay out of the heat. Do you know that greyhounds have such little body fat that they are more sensitive to the extreme cold and extreme hot temperatures than most other breeds? A few basic tips for anyone spending time outside with greyhounds can help ensure a happy hound and a happy owner!

1. Long walks should be limited to early morning or late evening.
 2. When in the heat, take along a squirt bottle to spray water over your greyhound's body.
 3. Make sure you bring drinking water along for you and your pooch.
 4. Put your veterinarian's phone number in your wallet just in case.
 5. If you will be on hot cement or black top surface, please take along a blanket or use booties for your hound. (The hot pavement will raise a dog's body temperature quickly.) If it is too hot for you to walk barefoot on the pavement, it is too hot for your grey also.
 6. Consider buying a plastic kiddie pool. Many people find that these pools are greyt fun for your grey to cool off and be more comfortable in the heat.
- Heat stroke can show up in any dog of any age, but if your hound is older, you **MUST** be extra careful!

Did you know that when your grey reaches 7 years of age, that he or she may be eligible for a senior wellness check at your veterinarian? Talk to your vet about the precautions you need to begin considering when your grey turns 7.

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dogs face, he gets mad but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out of the window!?

How much do retired greyhounds like to run? L—R (Greys) Pittsburgh Lass, Dakota, Camelot and in front Ayla. The friends are Heidi and Holly. Camelot is the 10 year-old I just adopted and what a greyt decision that was!! She is wonderful. Dazzle would make a wonderful addition to your home also. My senior doesn't act her age and she and Dazzle certainly have earned a greyt forever retirement home. If you have any questions about adopting a senior, don't hesitate to contact me. I would do it again in an instant if I didn't have 7 roommates already. We are in need of pictures or other articles for our future newsletters. It can just be a picture or have a story attached. The length is not important. Do you have a funny story and/or picture to tell about your Grey? Please send to antje11b@hotmail.com The next newsletter will be issued in October.