

Greyhound Action League of Buffalo

GAL-ZETTE

SUMMER/FALL 2010

Candy Castle

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GREYHOUND ACTION LEAGUE OF BUFFALO GAL-ZETTE

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Yet another Erie County Fair has come and gone. It may be sad that it is over, but it is good to know that so much was accomplished during our visits this year.

Greyhounds have been at the Fair for twenty years in some capacity, becoming a fixture at the event. That's obviously a good thing. Many attendees seek out and look forward to seeing the dogs year after year. Unfortunately, a fixture is just as easily ignored. A person with a 'been there, done that' mentality is likely to pass by, comfortable in his or her presumptions. Even after twenty years at the Fair, our conversations there indicate that many misconceptions about the breed are still prevalent.

That being the case, we were especially fortunate to be hosted by the Historical Society again. It is a natural fit, as greyhounds have a rich history of their own. Beyond that, however, it was more apparent this year than ever that the lawn of the Historical Building is the best possible place for us to exhibit, by far. The ability to see the dogs in a natural, comfortable and relaxed setting makes a world of difference. Phrases such as "I thought they were..." and "I heard they didn't..." were often spoken at the booth. Visitors that could see the dogs relaxing comfortably on the grass, leaning on a friend or even barking at a squirrel got the best indication of what greyhounds are truly about, and what makes them lovable. This is only possible in our location at the Historical Building. It is a relationship that we hope will continue to grow in future years.

Many conversations began because of our



t-shirts and signage. The shirts again proved to be a worthwhile endeavor, for several reasons. They clearly identified our volunteers and also helped create a welcoming, attractive presence to the booth. In addition, the shirts are a valuable connection to and reinforce the mission of the Erie County Fair itself. This makes us less an external vendor and more an integrated part of the Fair experience.

Most of all, the success we enjoyed this year can be credited to, as usual, our terrific volunteers and the greyhounds that worked so hard to get the message out. Thanks to all for a fabulous 2010 Erie County Fair.

“Red” is a December 2006 pup boasting a racing career in two states at four different tracks. Destined to be retired as a pet at the end of the season this October, he ran his final race August 5th. After being checked on the first turn he completed the Grade B race at the back of the pack. Red had obviously been injured.

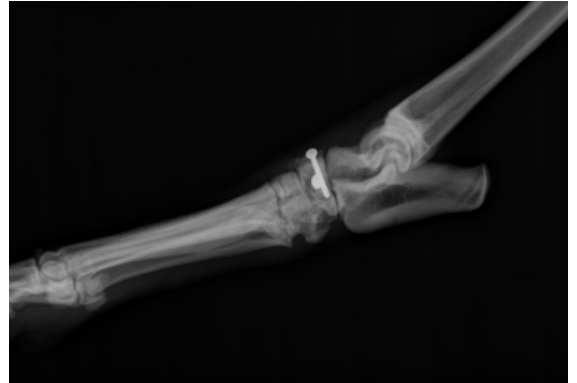
Once Sharon Palm of CIGA received word of Red’s injury she was in motion to get Red ready for the trip eastward this coming October. He had been promised by his owner to come to Buffalo when he retired joining his mom and five other siblings. It was now imperative to get Red the medical attention required for a full recovery.

Quick response by Brett Entas (Black Kennel) and Dorothy Anderson (CIGA) had Red moved to a vet office in Chicago for x-rays. Red had a luxation of the central tarsal bone on his right rear leg. It was surgically repaired with two screws holding it in place. For the next 8 weeks, he will be leashed walked after which he should have a full recovery.

A surgery such as this is not considered an extensive one when it comes to fixing legs, but still will cost CIGA close to \$2000. Central Illinois Greyhound Adoption is one of the few groups that focuses on broken legged dogs – giving them that chance to make recovery and into an adoption program. They cover the costs through fundraising and grant writing. They also solicit donations from the race owners that have the injured dogs. CIGA has not asked GAL to reimburse for this expense but would definitely appreciate any small donation sent in Red’s Honor. The funds will be put away to assist with the next unfortunate hound that gets injured.

If you would like more information about CIGA you can check out their web site at: www.ciga2001.org. The faces of the many dogs that were assisted by CIGA are worth seeing.

An early update as far as Red’s personality: most of the personnel at the vet clinic where Red was treated came to say good bye to him. They commented that he was incredibly sweet. CIGA foster home Dorothy also



TAKING A BREAK: Red (Top) and his luxated tarsal bone (middle and bottom).

mentioned that whatever GAL foster home works with Red is going to have an extremely difficult time letting him go. Red is that special.

The GALs are looking forward to Red’s arrival in October. For updates on Red’s progress, or any questions regarding CIGA you can email them to: info@greyhoundactionleague.com.

Dear MKB: While at the Fair, several folks asked questions and made comments about my designer collar. It was admired by many, and others wanted to understand its functionality. How should I have my parents handle these questions next time we are working a meet and greet?

Signed- Silky draped in Silk Brocade

Dear Silky: Well firstly kudos to you for your keen fashion sense. Secondly, as you know, greyhounds require special humane style choke collars to keep you from accidentally slipping out of your neckwear. Explain and demonstrate how the collar functions. Suggest that it also works well for other certain breeds of dogs, allowing for good control. Next, explain that your designer collar is not just about fashion, but it is historical too. Share with them that in early times greyhounds could only be owned by royalty or people of status. Quite often they draped their hounds in tapestry and ornate collars. This can be seen in statues and artwork. Just let them know you are proud of your greyhound heritage!



Mothers know best: Hallie-Jo and Gracie will now give their best advice.

I would like to introduce you to the newest addition to my family and what a joyous occasion it is. This beautiful little girl's name is Dime but her racing name was Nancy Knows Pups. She was born October 30, 2005 and began her racing career in April 2007.

I followed every race she competed in from Raynham-Taunton (where she started her career) to Daytona where she finally retired. What is really amazing is that she only ran a total of seven grade 'D' races in her entire career; not many pups can do that. She has super early speed and never quit trying. She retired in grade 'B'.

When Dime got off the hauler at Ebro Greyhound Park on August 6th at 11:35pm, I was overjoyed with the sight of her. What a precious little girl. I have three other greyhounds, two rat terriers and four cats, two of which are white. Dime immediately took to my whole gang. You only have to tell this beautiful little girl something one time and she remembers. She's super smart and very lovable. Her eyes just sparkle when you speak to her. When she gets a chance she will load me down with kisses and will even occasionally, give my white kitties a kiss or two.

I am so happy to finally have this little girl as a part of my family and I want to take this opportunity to personally thank the owner, Anthony Napolitano, Jr., Trainer Steve Sarras, and my dear friend, Laura Pike, for making this all possible. Thank you so very much.



Ella Roick (*Ella Can Fly*) This gal knows how to enjoy life and spreads her happy attitude with those around her. Retired from Iowa this beauty was adopted by the Roick family and is sharing her home with ½ brother Roodie. Ella will also enjoy occasional visits with her littermate when 'Aunt Christine' visits. Enjoyed and fostered by the Pikes.



Pepperoni Rohe (*Gable Pepperoni*) This handsome guy is sweet and fairly mild. He finished his career in Wheeling and has chosen Buffalo as his retirement destination. Roni was fostered by the Bagne and Rohe families. Former kennel mate Scoop Dog decided he should stay on as a permanent brother.

Sandy Torrelli (*Hoot*) This gentle soul lost her second home (through no fault of hers) and just deserved a family that would appreciate what a gem she truly is. Fostered by the Torrelli family she found her way into their hearts as a tried and true greyhound home. She is now the proud sister of Whisper.



Queenie Gribbin (*At The DQ*) This sweet little gal raced in WV. She wanted a family and home that would appreciate her gentleness. Queenie found that special family that appreciated her for both her inner and outer beauty. According to her mom it was fate! Fostered by the Caughel family.



El Cine Hendra (*El Cine*) A perfect gentlemen for the perfect couple. El Cine secured himself a lovely home that includes a fenced yard, evening strolls and the companionship of some felines. A former racer from both IA and WI he spent his foster days with the Pike family. Cine has also donated some of his spare time helping the GALs



Runner Holovacs (*Wave Runner*) Found his perfect companion. Happy to be a single dog he shares his home with a cat. He gets to enjoy walks and camping on the weekends, and sometimes accompanies his owner to work. Retired after racing in the three states of IA, FL and WI he was fostered by the Empringham family.



Boogie Paschen (*N's Boogiebyanoz*) Boogie, a most loyal and devoted hound lost his home due to family circumstances. He found his forever home after a short stint on Craigs List; then surrendered to GPAEC he was transferred to the GALs for placement. Affectionate as they come he was fostered by the Pike and Paschen families. Although loved by both foster homes, the adoption decision was made by littermate Easy who enjoyed having his puppyhood brother back in his life.





Zoey Dove-Kimmins/Lasker (*Slatex Top Dog*) Zoey completed her racing career in WV. She spent her foster days with the McGranahan family that described her as very sweet and friendly. She was adopted by a lovely couple who enjoy taking her for walks. Zoey recently spent some time volunteering at the Fair helping to promote adoption.



Ty Johnstone (*JF's Mr Tee*) After losing his family due to relocation across town, Ty waited patiently for just the right family. Patience and time has made him a loved part of his new family. He shares his home with a greyhound sister Barbie. Fostered by the Cross family.



Mrs. Robin (*Robin Ronin*) – After a busy career in racing spanning the two states of FL and WV, Robin then became a brood mom of eight puppies. Retiring to the Hamburg area, her foster home couldn't resist making her a permanent family member. Robin shares her home with several other greyhounds and a flock of birds. Robin will be featured in an upcoming compilation about retired moms.



Duncan Fleissner-Noonan (*Garnett Duncan*) A favorite retiree out of the Gable Kennel at Wheeling, Duncan was looking forward to a special home. A super couple that spent awhile researching and waiting for 'just the right time to adopt' came along and fell in love with him. Duncan loves his new parents and enjoys their walks on a beautiful street in the city. He also gets to visit with greyhound cousin Star in the country. It's the best of both worlds!



Nellie Guest-Mclean (*Nerud*) - A top racer from Wheeling, Nellie then became a mom of three litters. Young in years and spirit she retired to Buffalo. A special couple willing to adopt a slightly older gal took quiet Nellie in to be a sister to their Beagle Ralphie. She now enjoys being a part of their loving family. Fostered by the Lynch-Johnt family.

My husband and I were invited to visit Wheeling Island Racetrack on Sunday June 6th. The Greyhound Action League, the group to which we belong, brought us to the track. They also got us our first and only greyhound, Gemma. After 4 ½ hours we arrived at the track. Cheryl and Wayne, the dog trainers, greeted us. They had an itinerary planned for us so we could experience all aspects of life of racing greyhounds.

First, we visited the adoption kennel. This is where the dogs that are no longer racing live and are all looking for a home. We met some of the dogs when Wayne and Cheryl let them out one at a time. You could see how they responded to them. They were very comfortable and it was clear the love and affection they had for Wayne and Cheryl. They knew all the dogs' personalities. Their response to us - total strangers, was amazing. They were so sweet, loving and calm. They loved the attention, and were so affectionate.

We then went to the buffet for lunch. There was a variety of food stations which included Chinese, Mexican, then there was prime rib, barbecue ribs, chicken, salads, home made mashed potatoes, vegetables and the list goes on. The desert station was my favorite so many choices cakes, pies, squares, ice cream etc. The food was delicious.

From the clubhouse, we experienced the dogs racing. The dogs ran past us at 40 plus miles per hour. It was very impressive. These dogs are fine athletes. Their sleek bodies with such muscle definition and yet so graceful -it was beauty in motion, and truly an awesome sight.

Then we were taken to the kennel where the racing dogs live. The kennel was immaculate. Meat was being defrosted in a stainless steel sink for their evening meal. They also had bags of Purina One kibble and milk bones for treats. We saw cans of spinach and different spices to add to the meat. All the food is weighed to give the correct amount. The food amounts are adjusted so the dogs that are scheduled to race the next day meet the weight requirements.

It was a full day and we were getting ready to leave. Laura Pike, the President of Greyhound Action League, was taking two dogs back to Buffalo to foster. One of the touching parts of this whole experience

was meeting Cheryl and Wayne and witnessing the genuine love and caring they have for these beautiful greyhounds. They are truly special people. They work long hours and are so dedicated to these dogs and their well-being. I was so impressed with them - they are truly fine selfless people. It was an honor to spend the day with them. They restored my faith in humanity. They are the real deal.



A DAY AT THE RACES: The Wheeling Island Race Track



HERE COMES LUCKY: One of the races we watched.

Holland Tulip Festival

We didn't let the rain dampen our spirits. GALs used the contingency plan of driving in the parade with marked vans to show our support for this annual event, despite a bit of thunder and lightning. Smiles and waves out the windows assured the organizers and spectators that we were still happy to be a part of the event.

Cruise Nite

Polish Falcons in Depew host a Cruise Night during the summer. GALs were invited to be a part of this fun event. We had an information table and folks stopped by to say hello to our hounds. GALs were able to select their favorite car from the many wonderful vintage cars dotting the parking lot. We chose to award the plaque to Peter Schafer for his 1960 Cadillac. This event was a lot of fun and a unique opportunity. Sincere thanks to Eric Jankowski for setting this up for the GALs.

Holland Elementary Hobby Days

An exciting and informative day was spent with several classes at this daylong event. The children were all polite and inquisitive- they asked so many questions! Our volunteer dogs made a terrific impression on the kids, and we got a great deal of positive feedback.

Wheeling Trip

GALs took their annual trip down to Wheeling. Participants included first timers and folks that have gone before. The day included a delicious buffet, watching live racing, visiting the adoption kennel, and finally a tour of the Gable Race Kennel to pickup new retirees. We would like to thank Wayne & Cheryl Piquette for their hospitality and for securing us the opportunity to do so many educational activities.

The Greyt Ride Dice Run

We want to thank the Springville Travelers Motorcycle Club, along with West Valley Hotel, Ellicottville Brew Pub, and Gowanda Harley for their hospitality. Once again the STMC and their members were very supportive and made us feel right at home! A surprise visit from Red Bull Hostesses was an added treat.

Burgerfest / Animal Alley

Our third year participating at Animal Alley is definitely a fun venture. Crowds of people stopped by to visit with the GAL Greyhounds. Thanks to Susan Ferry of A Pawsitive Experience for managing and inviting us again this year.

Eden Corn Festival

Yes, we did it! We finished the parade without any rain falling. What a terrific turnout of GAL Volunteers, their hounds and definitely appreciated by the crowds along the parade route.

National Night Out

The GALs participated for the second year at the National Night Out in the St. Casmir Parish. A frequent request by folks living in the neighborhood, we really enjoyed being a part of this worthwhile community event.

Erie County Fair

It was the GALs third year of upholding a respectable representation for retired racers. Our sincere thanks to the Historical Society for their hospitality. Thank you to the GAL volunteers and hounds, your enthusiasm and smiles really shined through. We also want to acknowledge the creative designs by Mark Caughel for the GAL fair themed logo.

Pet-A-Palooza

This fundraiser was well organized by Rachel Dahlberg. Thank you for inviting us as one of the recipients. GALs received over \$200, due to the hard work of Rachel and support of many vendors who participated.

I never expected to be adopted. I always just assumed the breeding farm would be my last stop. Even the most optimistic greyhound would lose hope after a year, and I had been there for nearly three.

It was the same old story. Anyone willing to adopt a greyhound was probably looking for a younger dog, with more energy and less scars.

And so, it was a very rare occurrence when one day a dog hauling trailer arrived in our compound. Apparently, some adoption groups in the east were taking brood mothers and placing them in homes.

I tried to be happy for the dogs that were going. They were older too, but for various reasons had stopped being useful or profitable to the owners. I had not, and in fact that very afternoon, I was to be assessed for my next breeding assignment.

For the rest of that morning, we all said our good-byes and as each dog's paperwork was reconciled they would be loaded into one of the small compartments on either side of the trailer. I had been in one of those once and I hated it, but I would gladly get in now if it meant leaving here, I thought.

I watched as the last dog was loaded just as the trainer came to take me to the office for my assessment.

When the usual poking and prodding had concluded, the trainers spoke at length about my breeding future. It seemed I was healthy enough, but something had sparked a disagreement between them. It was my puppies. My first litter had underperformed, and my second litter, while still young, was failing to catch on. One trainer argued that there was no point in going through the time and expense of another litter. The second contended that it was still a bit too soon to tell. They would have to call the owner for a decision. The trainer (the one that did not want me to have another litter) picked up the phone. I could hear his half of the short conversation.

"We can't agree on the breeding status of a dog of yours."

"Red Baby Brindle"

"The first litter hasn't made any money and the second doesn't seem to be taking to it either."

"Not in my opinion, no."

"They might still be here, I'll have to check."

"I'll get rid of her, then."

Get rid of her? I was left to contemplate what that meant as the trainer rushed outside. It was clear that I was not going to be here anymore, and thinking the worst, I began to panic. A few seconds later, the trainer returned. He grabbed my lead, and we both walked hurriedly out of the office, through the barn and out the front door.

Once again in the bright sunlight of the early afternoon, I tried to identify the long object we were rapidly approaching. When my eyes adjusted I realized, to my surprise, that it was the dog trailer. It was still here, and there was one last compartment left-for me.

It was a long ride. It took the better part of a whole day before I got out of the trailer, then I was transferred to a van. After two more hours on the road, we made it to a house in New York, just outside Buffalo. I was bathed, and finally free of fleas and ticks. I even had my teeth cleaned.

During the next two weeks, I would have to learn the skills necessary to adjust to life as a pet. Stairs, tile floors, other animals and small children were things I had never experienced in my previous years. When I proved my ability to acclimate, I was placed in a home where I have been loved and cared for ever since. Even my sister, Go Black Lady, eventually came to this area and now lives with me.

I have always considered myself fortunate for finally getting what so many other dogs never will. I'm doubly lucky to have left that day on that dog hauler. Quite well after that, I learned that my second litter did produce some exceptional racers, they were simply late bloomers. Had that been evident at that time, I am certain that I would still be on that farm.

ASSEMBLE – this dark brindled dynamo has personality plus! An intense spirit with an equally competitive nature he would be best suited as a single dog. “Jimmy” loves to go for casual strolls and rides well in the car, and likes to entertain you by fetching a stuffed toy. He is good in the crate and also cat safe. Quite the intellect, he would respect an owner with some dog experience. Bored with your life? Then he is the companion for you. He is retired from IA and will be 3 in November.



RED GLITTER – this fawn fellow is actually quite mellow. “Luke” requires an opportunity to warm up to his surroundings. He enjoys the company of other greyhounds and would appreciate a quiet setting. Retired from FL he recently celebrated his 4th birthday. “Luke” likes to go for walks, crates well and is cat workable. He is quite charming once he gets to know you. Why not consider him for your greyhound family?

GABLE SKOAL– retired from racing in WV from a hock injury, she is just about finished with her recovery. “Skoal” gets along with visiting children, other large dogs and is cat workable. She is relatively easy going and friendly. This well rounded gal would be a terrific addition to a variety of home settings. Need a loyal female in your life? Give us a call.



MOS JACK B QUICK - he recently turned 3 and is retired from a WV track. He is good with other greyhounds, and well behaved around cats. “Jack” is very sweet and well mannered, he could be described as the universal, typical greyhound. Who are we kidding? All greyhounds are extra special (not typical). Please consider this handsome, special guy for your home.

Skelly Swope (*Great Captain*) April 13, 1999~July 12, 2010, “Skelly developed a very progressive cancer. He has been such a joy that we just cannot imagine life without him. It is so cruel to have an end to such a happy story, but even crueler to let it go on. We know you know our pain all too well, and we take courage from the way you continue to love all the dogs.” During Skelly’s retirement he and his family volunteered promoting greyhound adoption and fostering. ‘Great Captain’ a perfect fit and loved member of his Coast Guard family.



Skelly

Nora Dominessy (*Up North*) Recently passed away at the age of 12 years. She enjoyed her retirement and being part of a family for the last 8 years. Nora brought a lot of attention to greyhounds in her small town of Delevan. Her family and grey-sibling Gus miss her very much.



Alvin

Bella Heckmiller (*HRS Mini Winnie*) 1995-2010, Bella was a wonderfully sweet greyhound, Patient and loving. Your family misses you very much. God Speed Bella!



Stan

Stan Blain-Harrington (*Gable Tanzania*) “Stan had to be put down August 4th, he was suffering from Osteosarcoma and had a pathologic leg fracture. He was a joy for the entire 10 months we had him.” Stan retired from racing in Wheeling a short time ago. It was a short pet life, but I know he was cherished by his adoptive family.

Brightning Roick (*USS Frightning*) “She was a fantastic girl and we will miss her immensely”. Bright was a good racer who had a second career as a brood mom. Despite her being middle aged she was quickly adopted by a wonderful couple (Lynn & Dave) who spoiled and showered with her with lots of love.



Brightning

Alvin Moeller “My big goofy boy passed suddenly on May 6th” – Alvin was a lucky boy to be adopted by such a dedicated greyhound family. “Run with the wind Alvin” our thoughts are with you Betsy.



Finn

Lily Griffiths (*SR’s Dawn*) Lily finished her racing career in MA and came to Buffalo to find her adoptive family. The Griffiths took the quiet and shy girl on as a foster who later became a permanent member of their family. It was definitely love at first sight.

Finley Nicola (*Spirit Keeper*) Finn enjoyed his retirement as the apple of his mom’s eye. His adoptive family’s love and devotion for him was incredible. “Losing Finn will be difficult for a while but I got my reward up front with 10 years of love from him”.



Welcome Foster Homes

The GALs would like to welcome some new and returning foster homes: Julie & Angus McDonald, Mark & Jen Caughel, Cheryl & Dan Dunn, Diane McGranahan and Deanne & Tom Cross. Our foster homes are an imperative part of the adoption process. We thank them for their dedication to the dogs. If you are interested in learning more about fostering, please contact Laura at 867.9822 to setup a foster seminar. You do not have to own a greyhound to foster. Medical expenses and food are covered by GALs.

Special Thanks!
 We would like to thank Mr. H. Caughel for offering his voice and narrating the "The Return of Boogie" video. Many people commented how moved they were listening and watching this video. If you have not had a chance to view it: <http://www.youtube.com/user/GACTIONAL>

GAL Lottery

We would thank the volunteers that sold tickets for this fundraiser. Also our appreciation to everyone that purchased tickets. Congratulations to the following winners: **Chuck Caulfield, Nicole Argue, Douglas Rukavina, Rhonda Knox, and Laura Sunderlin.**

An updated calendar of events and activities will be mailed out shortly for the remainder of 2010. If you have any questions or ideas of things to do, please contact Laura at info@greyhoundactionleague.com

Carpe Canem Auction
 GALs completed a successful online auction courtesy of Mik Wilkens. The Carpe Canem Auction raised more than \$700. for the GALs. Thank you for your help Mik! We appreciate everyone that donated items.

Shout Out!

For you Shawney! I am so very proud of all you have accomplished and continue to do. Thank you for your service on behalf of the American People and the USA. I appreciate everyday my freedom, my right to live as I please (including helping greyhounds). Please know I think of you often. Stay safe sweet girl.

Shawney Swope actively promoted greyhound adoption while in High School. She is now serving in the military and is currently stationed in Germany. Please keep her and all of our US Military personnel in your thoughts and prayers.