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GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA - NASHVILLE | SPRING 2008

## Why Foster? Because you can

### By Britt Phillips

Foster homes prepare greyhounds for a long, happy retirement and are a vital part of the work of GPA/N. My family and I have had the privilege of fostering retired racing greyhounds since Nov. 5, 2005. It hasn't always been easy but it has been rewarding. Here are some of the reasons why:

- Need — Retired racers need you to foster so they can transition from racing to retirement.
- Giving — Greyhounds give you more than you could ever give them.
- Experience — Fostering a greyhound provides you with more experience with the breed.
- Yearn — Greyhounds yearn for a forever homes.
- Hope — Foster homes give hope to all of those who are waiting at the track.
- Open — A greyhound's heart is open for the love you can provide.
- Delight — The delight of seeing your foster find his/her forever home is indescribable.

Sometimes it's difficult not to give in and adopt your foster hound. At the same time, you know that when your foster finds a home, you can help another hound who is waiting at the track.

Ready to give fostering a try? Contact



**Britt Phillips says good fostering helped hounds like her crew, from left to right, Belle, Bob, Sam, Dutch and Kangaroo, adjust to life away from the track and to become the gentle, loving companions they are today.**

Ramona Grove [ramona.grove@comcast.net](mailto:ramona.grove@comcast.net) about becoming a foster home.

### TAKE THE FOSTER CHALLENGE

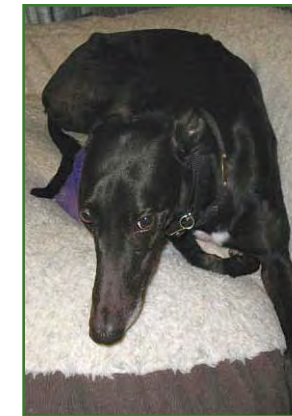
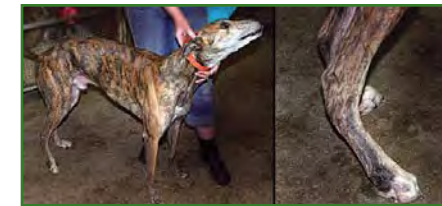
Foster families are the lifeblood of GPA/N's work. The more foster families we have, the more retired racers we can bring into our program. And the more dogs we have posted on our website, the more applications we get. It's that simple.

To help foster families prepare new hounds for their forever homes, we provide

a foster manual. It details fosters' responsibility such as teaching hounds how to do the stairs and navigate slick floors. GPA/N provides foster families with food, a crate and vet care, as needed, along with guidelines and support.

Bringing new hounds regularly to Meet & Greet to continue their education about life away from the track is also important. Having adoptable dogs at M&Gs can move potential adopters to submit applications and more hounds to find homes.

## Broken-legged hounds need your help



**A broken right hock or damage to the muscles or tendons in that leg is a typical racing injury. Top left, After the surgeries in May, Pecan and Best Man are rehabbing in foster homes. Their injuries before surgery are pictured at the lower left. Lil Girl Rocks, center, is already walking on her repaired leg. Above, Anne-Marie Mitchell, and her husband, Jim, have been fostering Tyville Kesley, another broken-legged dog, who will be ready for adoption this summer.**

Caring for greyhounds injured at the track is an important but costly part of GPA/N's commitment to retired racers.

Typically, we have one injured hound at a time. Pecan and Best Man have been waiting to come into our program since October. On April 26, Lil Girl Rocks was injured in a race at West Memphis and the owner asked us to take her, too. Meanwhile, Tyville Kesley, whose broken leg was repaired in March, is still in foster care.

The bill for each dog can be as high as \$4,000 for care at a specialist in Memphis. It can include: pre-op x-rays, surgery and anesthesia, medication, rebandaging, 10-14 days of kenneling at the clinic

plus follow-up x-rays. Sometimes, more surgery is needed.

Money for injured dogs usually comes from our Angel Fund. The Angel Fund is underwritten by dollars raised at special events and through donations. Four dogs at once, however, will leave the Angel Fund in the red. Can you help?

Please make donations to the Angel Fund using the PayPal button on the left side of our website splashpage ([www.gpanashville.org](http://www.gpanashville.org)). Checks can be mailed to GPA/N, PO Box 1042, Goodlettsville, TN 37070. GPA/N is a 501(c)3 organization, so donations are tax deductible. Questions or comments? Contact Liz Trapp at [ltrapp44@aol.com](mailto:ltrapp44@aol.com).

### About the Angel Fund

The Angel Fund is named for a young hound that came to us in 2000 from the Metro Animal Pound. Adopted as a puppy by people who knew nothing about greyhounds, she came to us with injuries and other medical needs.

To help pay for her care, a plea went out to greyhound people across the country who gave generously to cover Angel's care. Money left from that campaign provided the seeds that became the Angel Fund and has allowed GPA/N to care for injured hounds.

After surgery and rehabilitation, Angel made a full recovery. Kathy Helm, one of the pioneers in greyhound adoption in Middle Tennessee, adopted her and the two now live in Michigan.

## President's message

People ask me all the time about what they can do to help GPA/Nashville. It's true that, like any nonprofit, GPA/N needs cash for basics like gas for driving to and from the track and homevisits, for vet care and dog food.

Those things are important. But if you really, REALLY want to make a difference think about opening your heart and your home and foster a greyhound.

## FOSTERING 101

Foster families take fresh-from-the track dogs and teach them how to be pets. Along the way, you get the pleasure of celebrating when your foster does the steps on his own, figures out how to ask to go out and finally stops staring at that handsome dog reflected in the oven door.

I know, I know. Folks worry they'll adopt every hound they foster. I'd be lying if I said it wasn't a risk. But think about this — if someone hadn't fostered your dog, he might not be the great pet he is today.

As a foster family, you get lots of support from Ramona Grove, our foster coordinator, and from more experienced foster families. GPA/N provides crates, food and veterinary care. So, it boils down to you providing the time, space and love.

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

As a foster, you make new friends when your foster dog is adopted and you get to help guide his new family. The longer you foster, the wider your circle of friends, both two and four-legged. There's a special feeling when your former foster recognizes you months after he's been adopted. Fostering has other benefits. You'll learn more about the breed, so you'll be a better greyhound owner.

So think about fostering. Whether you open your home occasionally, regularly or just on an emergency basis, you'll be making a difference and the most important contribution you can make to GPA/N.

## Liz Trapp

President, GPA/Nashville  
ltrapp44@aol.com

## Save the date — GPA/N picnic Sunday, Sept. 21

GPA/N's annual fall picnic is 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 21 in the large events pavilion in Centennial Park in Nashville.

It's an afternoon of food, games and fun for the hounds. The highlight is our silent and live auctions. Dollars raised will go to the Angel Fund. These funds are used to pay for surgery and other treatment for dogs that come to us with broken legs and other track injuries.

Watch the GPA/N website and adopter Yahoo list for details. To help with the picnic, contact Jan Bornstein at janbornstein@aol.com.

## Vacation road trips for hounds, people

Vacations aren't just for humans. Your hound would enjoy getting away and relaxing, too. That's easy when you attend one of the many events for hounds and their people hosted by adoption groups across the country. Events include shopping, games for the hounds, socializing and, of course, lots of fun.

Here are just a few of the possible events you and your hound can travel to:

■ July 18-20 – Greyhound Festival of Bluegrass, Louisville, Ky.  
[www.greyhoundsofshamrock.org/festival/index.html](http://www.greyhoundsofshamrock.org/festival/index.html)

■ Sept. 19-23 – Greyhounds in Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Vir.  
[www.colonialgreyhounds.com](http://www.colonialgreyhounds.com)

■ Oct. 10-12 – Greyhounds Reach the Beach, Dewey Beach, Del.  
[www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey/](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey/)

## When your hound goes over the Bridge

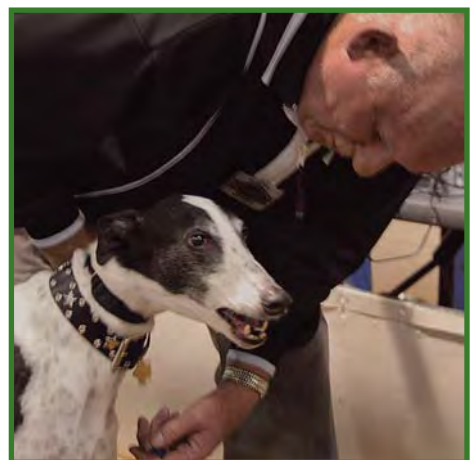
The death of a retired racer is always painful. To help cope with this loss, consider posting a picture and a memorial to your dog to the Rainbow Bridge section of our website.

Just send a .jpg file (about a two mega pixels) and a few lines, a poem or other tribute about your hound to: gpanashville@gmail.com.



# Winter Gathering 2008

More than 250 adopters and their hounds attended this year's event which raised more than \$3,000 for greyhound adoption.



Top left, Diane Lamog sings a greyhound anthem she wrote to the tune of "We are Family." Top right, shopping for greyhound t-shirts and other merchandise is one of the most popular Winter Gathering activities. Center, the Fun Run draws crowds as fans cheer on their favorites. Bottom left, Jim Simms congratulates his hound, Spock, on winning the roving contest.



Todd Werner urges his hounds, Mystery and Endeavor, to the Fun Run finish line while Rob Holmes, seated at left, captures the photo finish.

## New Adoptions

Between Dec. 1 and May 1, the following hounds, found forever homes with GPA/N adopters.

### NEW ADOPTERS

Jennifer Norton — Whytell Mango - Quixote  
Sharon Lyons — BD's Hendrix - Hendrix  
Linda Bratton — Hey Oakwood Buzz — Bogey  
Michael & Nancy Eberhard — Killer Joe - Frazier  
Matt Lewis & Lauren Thomas — Sameolsongdance - Dexter  
Bill & Jennifer Anders — SMK Skynard — Skinny  
Terri & Marvin Blair — Thatsa Kool Kat - Kool  
Jennifer Smith — TK Ready to Run - Riley  
Jessica & Kirk Donovan — RK's Diesel Fuel - Diesel  
Mary & Steve Hoskins — Dazzling Beauty & Bb's B Big — Beau & Fenton  
Jan & Tom Lanier — Poetic Snowdance - Snow  
Kristy Instinski — BD's Lebeau — Beau  
Andy & Charlene Powell — Calypso Clipper - Clipper  
Jennifer & Matt Stone — JK Frisky - Frisky  
Will & Jaclyn Felton — TNJ Manhattan - Manny  
Nicole Stephens — Dominator's Baby - Ava  
Alan & Niki Vendur — KGB Kats Frisco - Frisco  
Joann Moss — CTW Pioneer - Pioneer  
Robert & Pamela Price — Iruska Pozie - Pozie  
Shannon & Richard Brown — Be Seein Ya - Seein Ya  
Rhondetta & Bailey Walton — Mr. Peek A Boo - Boo  
Janet Robertson — Nina Natasha - Nina  
Sally Kay & Michael Garriott — Well I'll Be — Will  
Caroline Holley — Pin Oak Jay Zee — Jay Zee  
Sheryl Naron — LA Rain - Rain  
Kerry & Lance Hammond — Bad Girl & Violet Tears — BG & Violet

### CHIPS (as in you can't have just one!)

Scott Coffey — PP Fantastic - Taboo  
Donna & John Jones — Timing - Tucker  
John & Kristy Norris — Runnin' on Air & JR's Restless - Ariel & Holly  
Liz Trapp — Miz Zamboni - Zamboni  
Nina & Bob Clark — Bd's Evander - Evan  
Saundra & Jim Sims — Money Loves Me — Spock  
Shelley Madison — Barrie's Flyer - Sabrina  
Sharon & David Conley — Dasani Ice - Dasani  
Ron & Dana McCullough — Just Call Me Buddy - Buddy  
Jennifer Henry & Kerry Dye — PTL Memory Lane - Memory  
Ramona Grove — Silky Steel - Tiffany  
Susan Siegman — Orchid - Sky  
Cathy & Bart Morris — Hey Frank Dash - Frank  
Philip Moyers — Hugosones — Huey  
Amy & Mike Vehec — PTL Leftwich - Lefty  
Mardy Fones & Ray Wong — Deforrest Kelley — Kelley  
Jim & Stacy Kelly — BB's Smilensally - Sally  
Bill & Angie Riggs — In The Ringblair - Gracie Lou  
Wayne & Debbie Travis — Miz Cookie - Cookie  
Terri Handel — Jolo - Kim  
Lynnae Van Doren — Spitfire Girl - Villa  
Lisa Dordal & Laurie Samuels — Liar Liar Drive — Brindi  
Robert Holm — ZMS Fort Sumner - Sumner  
Mark & Becky Orman — WB's WaterLeaf - WaterLeaf

In 2007, GPA/N found homes for 121 retired racers.