



Tails from the Northwest



A Newsletter For And About GPA Northwest Members And Our Dogs

© Copyright 2009 Greyhound Pets of America - Northwest



November 2009



In This Issue

- [Save The Date - Christmas Tree Sale](#)
- [Hounds Out & About - Pancake Breakfast in Bend](#)
- [Volunteer Classifieds - Help Wanted](#)
- [Volunteer Focus - Matt Earhart](#)
- [Did You Know?](#)
- [44 Greyhounds in Two Weeks](#)
- [Featured Article - Being A Foster Home](#)
- [Event Review - Wagging Tails Harvest Fair](#)
- [Featured Event - Bowling For Greyhounds](#)
- [Health & Safety Tips - Ice & Snow Can Be Dangerous](#)
- [2010 Celebrating Greyhounds Calendars](#)
- [Featured Greyhound For Adoption - Marcy](#)
- [Calendar Of Upcoming Events](#)

Save The Date

Join us for our 6th annual Christmas Tree Sale

Saturday, December 5th
9:00am - 4:00pm

Forest Heights Village Center
2041 NW Miller Road Portland, OR 97229

[Link to Map & Directions](#)

6th Annual Christmas Tree Sale

December 5, 9am - 4pm



Forest Heights Village Center
2041 NW Miller Road

Holiday cheer,
Holiday music
and shopping

Fresh Oregon
Nobel Fir Trees \$35

[Details on our Events Page](#)

The Greyt Stuff shop will be available for early Christmas shopping.

All Proceeds benefit the GPA Northwest adoption program.

We really need some strong volunteers to help with this event. Unloading the trees and moving them around is hard work and if you are able to help please volunteer. We need strong volunteers for setup, teardown and actually all day to help people load their trees. This is a big fundraiser for GPA Northwest and we can't do it without your help.

[Check our website for more information](#)

Hounds Out & About

Pancake Breakfast in Sisters



For the second year, Marcia Tripiano donated and hosted a pancake breakfast gathering at her home in Sisters, Oregon. On Sunday morning, October 18 over 25 local Greyhound owners gathered to enjoy breakfast, watch their Greyhounds run and play with

other Greyhounds and exchange stories. The Greyt Stuff merchandise traveled to Sisters with the Hounds Out and About team so that adopters in the area could stock up.



Six adoptable dogs joined the local residents for a few laps that got everyone moving! Resident Greyhound, Reilly, was a wonderful host and shared his large fenced enclosure happily with over 30 of his closest Greyhound friends.

Volunteer Classifieds

WANTED: Volunteers for the Christmas Tree Sale in Portland, December 5th. Volunteers are needed to help with setup and tear down, to be cashier, to help with selling and loading trees. We always need extra help to unload all the trees for the morning setup. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact the event coordinators Gail Dreckman & Jen Mauk via Email TreesNW@gpa-nw.org

WANTED: Volunteer Coordinator. This volunteer is the liaison between events/activities leaders and volunteers needed to help with the activities, maintains a list of volunteers and their contact information, maintains the list of hours volunteered by each person, provides volunteer training and materials. The Volunteer Coordinator is the bridge for new volunteers to become acquainted with GPA and give them what they need to be successful in their volunteer work.

WANTED: Media/Advertising Coordinator. This volunteer would contact the media to get coverage for various GPA activities, write and distribute press releases for GPA events, and place advertisements as needed.

WANTED: Donations Coordinator. This volunteer would seek donations of various materials needed by GPA for the adoption program or in support of items needed for various fund raising events.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas please email to bodnw@gpa-nw.org

Volunteer Focus

By Matt Earhart

I had been planning on running the Portland marathon since I finished my last marathon on Whidbey Island in March of '09. Months ago, when planning for the Portland Marathon, I decided to try and get sponsored to raise money for a local non-profit. While researching non-profits in the Portland area, I found my greyhound Ella resting her head in my lap. My partner Sarah and I adopted Ella over three years ago, and we couldn't imagine life without her now. It became clear at that moment I would run the marathon for the greyhounds. It seemed to be perfect role reversal... a human running for greyhounds!

I decided to ask people for a dollar a mile for the 26 miles that I would be running. My goal was to have 10 people sponsor me, and raise \$260.00. By the weekend of the race I had received donations from generous donors that amounted to \$460.00! This alone was very inspirational, and played a large role keeping me focused mentally during the 3 hours and 57 minutes of running around the Portland metro area. As if raising money for the greyhounds didn't make me feel inspired enough, the community at large came out by the thousands to support the 10,000 people that would attempt to run 26 miles.



The first 18-19 miles were consistent and problem free. Around mile 20, what distance runners refer to as "The Wall" was looming in that back of my mind. This is the moment when your body tells you STOP, and you have to rely on your mental toughness to run for another hour. This was a part of the race where normally I might question myself and why I am paying money to be in such agony. But in this case, mile 20 came in the form of an epiphany. "It's only mile 20?! Only 6 to go!" I found myself repeating. This mantra was soon followed by the realization that I was raising money and awareness for the greyhounds. The last six miles flew by and I finished with a personal record of 3 hours and 57 minutes.



Upon crossing the finish line amongst thousands of other runners and spectators with grins ear to ear, I had to hold back a few tears to save face. Needless to say, the finish was very emotional for me. Although the Portland Marathon was my third marathon, it was the most meaningful to me thanks to the support of friends, family, and

those generous folks who had sponsored me to run for the greyhounds. I plan on running marathons for as long as my body will allow me to, and I hope to continue to raise money and awareness for the Greyhounds in the future.

Matt and his partner Sarah adopted Ellie, renamed Ella. GPA Northwest salutes Matt's unique fundraiser, which brought much

Many thanks to Marcia, Reilly, and all of Marcia's friends and neighbors who helped cook breakfast for an enjoyable autumn get-together that, with merchandise sales, raised nearly \$500 for GPA Northwest's adoption program.

needed finds to our program. Thank you for putting your motivation to use in helping Ella's fellow Greyhounds.

Did You Know

GPA Northwest now holds five major fundraising events each year, one in every quarter of the year?

We have events outdoors in the nice weather months and indoor events in the cold weather months?

We hold *Meet A Retired Racer*, Adoption Outreach events nearly every weekend of the year?

We have big events and little events, all day events and two hour events?

We now have active volunteers working hard in Portland, Vancouver, Salem, Eugene, Corvallis, Roseburg, Grants Pass, Medford and Bend?

Every event is organized and staffed by unpaid volunteers who have learned on-the-job how to make events a success?

We need more volunteers who can contribute some of their time to help the Greyhounds by organizing or helping at events?

If you would like to be more involved with the Greyhounds, please consider volunteering to help with events. You can do as much or a little as you are able, everything will help us continue our Adoption program.

Contact VolunteerNW@gpa-nw.org for more information.

44 Greyhounds in Two Weeks

Many of you may already know but GPA Northwest was able to bring 44 Greyhounds from the Tucson racetrack home to Oregon in a two week span. We received 16 dogs one weekend and 28 the next weekend. It made for some hectic activities for the entire week (and beyond) but it allowed these 44 Greyhounds to make it home. Justin Stevens was on hand helping and took some video of the new dogs, [check it out on his UTube page](#).



Nearly all of these dogs started their lives here in Oregon, went off to race other places and were finally graded off in Tucson. We worked with the racetrack to arrange for the dogs to be brought to us in two groups. On the second haul, we were only expecting 21 dogs but at the last minute, a local owner asked us to please take seven of their dogs into our program. We agreed and that made 28 dogs on one load.

This is the largest number of dogs we have taken into our program over such a short period of time and it has stretched all of our resources thin. Volunteers are worn out from washing the dogs, checking them for potential health problems and sorting them out so we knew who was who but it was a memorable week for everyone

involved.



Not to mention the foster homes, who have had to work overtime to handle so many dogs at once and our transporters, who have had so many vet appointments they have lost track of the miles. Our placement volunteers are all working hard to find permanent homes for these Greyhounds and they are moving through the program smoothly. As of this writing, ten Greyhounds still need a foster home to live in before they can be adopted. If you can foster a Greyhound, even for a short time, your help is needed.



If you would like to help with the next group of Greyhounds that need their baths and other preparations before going to foster homes, or if you would consider fostering a Greyhound for a while, please contact our Foster Coordinators at FosterNW@gpa-nw.org.

Featured Article

Being A Foster Home

Had I not made the decision to participate in rescue, I would never have had the chance to meet him. If I had sat here comfortably in my home and said "I already have four dogs and I know that I couldn't take in another - even on a temporary basis," I would never have met this dog.

Yes, it takes time to rescue and foster... but who gave me time in the first place? And why or what was the reason I was given Time? To fill my own needs? Or was there another reason ever so small and seemingly insignificant, like rescuing this one dog that could make a difference in another's life? Perhaps to add joy, hope, help and companionship to another who is in need?

With great sadness, I sat down on a footstool in my kitchen this morning and watched as this foster dog bounced back into the house and skidded across the floor to sit ever so perfectly in front of me. He was the picture of health, finally. He was all smiles for me.... and I smiled back at his happy face. Deep in his eyes, the storm clouds of illness and generalized poor health had blown away, and the clear light of his perfection radiated out from his beautiful soul.



He holds no ill will toward man. He forgives us all. I thought to myself as I impressed this one last long look of him into my heart, what a very fine creature you have created. Tears slowly pooled and spilled over my cheekbones as the deeper realization of how wonderful this dog is sank into my internal file cabinet of Needful Things to Remember.

Lord, he's a dog - but he's a better human being than I am. He has forgiven quickly. Would I do the same? He passionately enjoys the simple things in life, and I have often overlooked them. He accepts change and gets on with his life! I fuss and worry about change. He lives today and loves today. And I often dwell in the past or worry about the future. He loves no matter what. I am not that free.

This very lovely dog has gone to his new home today and already I miss him. Thank you for bringing this dog into my life. And thank you for the beautiful and tender lesson on how to be a better human.



Author Unknown

Event Review

2009 Wagging Tails Harvest Fair

On Saturday, October 24th, the Wagging Tails Harvest Fair was held in Vancouver, WA. This event was open to all breeds of dogs and we were pleased to see terriers, retrievers and mixed breeds of all shapes and sizes mingling with the numerous Greyhound attendees. Juli and Charlie Gilbert were kind enough to donate the use of their Tails R Waggin' Doggy Day Care facility to host this event, and thanks to some sunny weather, attendees and dogs had an opportunity to enjoy both the indoor and outdoor spaces of this great venue.



The Harvest Fair provided a number of opportunities for our attendees to help raise funds for GPA Northwest: two silent auctions, two raffles, sales of Greyt Stuff Shop merchandise, sales of donated crafts, produce and flowers, as well as sales of



hearty, fall foods (the yummy Chili and Mac & Cheese seemed to be the most popular). Many thanks to all those who worked on or donated to these portions of the fair!

Throughout the event, attendees were able to play various games, including a ring toss onto a wagging tail - harder than it looked - and pin the Greyhound on the couch - our most popular game among the humans. Owners were able to play directly with their dogs in the find the treat shell game for the dogs - which some found quite challenging - and bobbing for hot dogs - which as usual was much loved by the food-motivated among our canine attendees.

In keeping with the Halloween spirit, there were two costume contests held for the dogs, with first place prizes going to Bentley, the golden retriever dressed as a security guard (complete with attached keys and flashlight) and Flower, the Greyhound dressed as a fairy princess (despite some rather temperamental wings). Other prize winners included Bear, the Labradoodle dressed as a tiger, Hudson, the mixed breed dressed as a squirrel, Sammy, the Greyhound dressed as a hunter, and his companion, a silky terrier dressed as a bunny. PetsMart kindly donated prizes for these contests, while veterinarians Drs. Erich Barger and Tracy Thompson judged the events.



The Harvest Fair also provided a chance for our members to showcase their baking skills in our two baked goods contests - a traditional pie contest where entries were judged on their taste, and a "Baked Beauties" contest where entries were judged on their appearance and presentation. Ivy Manning, author, teacher and food celebrity donated her time (and taste buds) to judge the contests, with winners including GPA members Jackie Holstrom, Cheryl Teeling and Michelle Stevens, as well as two local culinary students. Once judged, the delicious creations were available for sale to the event's attendees.

The success of this year's Harvest Fair would not have been possible without the generous donations we received, the charitable spirit of our attendees and the many, many hard-working volunteers (members and non-GPA members alike) who participated in the event. Our most heartfelt thanks go out to you all, and we hope to see you next year!

Mark Your Calendar For Next Year!

Featured Event

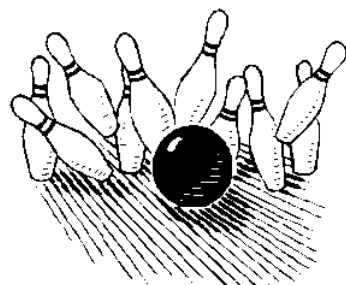
For ALL Dog Owners And Supporters Of Greyhound Adoption

Bowling For Greyhounds

Date: Saturday November 7th
Time: Noon - 4:00 pm
Location: Elks Lodge 2032
 13121 S.E. McLoughlin Blvd., Milwaukie, OR 97222
[Link To Map & Directions](#)

Entry Fee:
 \$10.00 Includes three free games

[Pre-Register Now](#)



This is one of our most fun events of the year and it is for everyone, **not just Greyhound owners**. This event encourages the public to come out and support the Greyhound Adoption program of GPA Northwest by bowling for fun and to raise money for the program. Besides bowling for yourself, all bowlers are encouraged to get others, who may not attend the event, to Sponsor them and donate either an certain amount for each pin knocked down during the three game set (example \$0.25 per pin), or some sponsors will just make a single donation as support for the GPA Adoption program (example \$30 or \$50 donation).

This is the time go sign up for bowling and then go out to all your co-workers, friends and neighbors and get them to Sponsor you. Between all those sponsors, your effort will raise a lot of money for the Greyhounds. Our highest Bowler raised over \$1,000 last year and we challenge each of you to get enough sponsors to meet or beat that goal.

This event is not for the dogs so leave your Greyhounds home in comfort but bring as many people as you can find!

[Click Here to download the Bowler sign up sheet and the Sponsor log Sheet.](#)

[Click Here to download the Flier for this event](#) Post these at work or anywhere you can think of to bring in more bowlers for this event.

For more info call 800-366-1472 or email BowlingNW@gpa-nw for more Information.

Health & Safety Tips



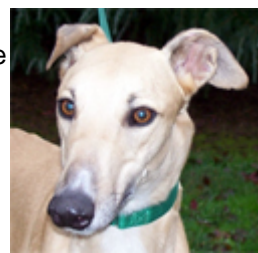
Sheila and Snow Say . . .

Ice & Snow Can Be Dangerous



By Lisa Martin

From the day we met, I knew Noodles was the greatest dog ever - I didn't know the many ways his fantastic personality was going to get us through some rough times. Last winter, Noodles had a very rough winter.... he went running out of the house to go do his duty early in the morning, after the snow - we, like many others, didn't realize layers of ice had formed in the snow. As Noodles ran out to the yard, he fell through the ice cutting up all four of his legs. We couldn't even get out of the drive way, let alone get him to the vet. Our only choice was to do first aid via phone with the Tualatin Emergency Animal Clinic. Usually only open nights and weekends, because the staff of the Tualatin Emergency Animal Clinic were unable to get home, they stayed open during the daytime hours in the bad weather.



Although Noodles was a trooper, I was so upset about his injuries, that I went out the next day and armed with a screwdriver and hammer, went to work on my son's car to get the ice off. It had chains and I didn't care at that point if I broke a window - I just needed to get Noodles to the vet. Much to my relief, along came a neighbor who had made it back from Bend after a skiing trip and he took Noodles and me to the Tualatin Emergency Clinic. He even came back for me 4 hours later when it was determined that Noodles had to stay overnight to see what could be done. At that point, I was a nut case -I had learned that Noodles was the 3rd Greyhound they had to treat for the same injuries. They took great care of him and released him one day later, but he had to go in every other day to have his bandages changed. Fortunately, they remained open almost two weeks, until the weather got better. They were so awesome. When the weather subsided and Tualatin Emergency Clinic went back to their regular schedule, my regular vet was still unable to open and I had to take Noodles to another vet. I chose the Banfield Pet Clinic in Wilsonville where Noodles again charmed the staff.

Banfield was so good with Noodles - he had to go in every third day for bandage changes. After the 2nd time we were there, they told me that when he had to come in next time that he could stay the whole day.... I could just drop him off in the morning and get him when I got off work....no charge for the stay... What! Come to find out he had won their hearts with his super personality! And, they were spoiling him after his bandage changes - he was given a nice fleece bed where everyone could just coo-dle him and he was allowed to wander around when he felt like it.... no kennel for him.

The accident occurred on 12/22/08 and Noodles had bandage changes every three days until March 15th. The layers of ice had cut all his legs extensively as he broke through the various layers. It was a very expensive situation and I was given so many discounts because of his lovable personality. What should have cost me close to \$3,700, all told with all the expensive meds, it was around \$2,150.

We're so grateful for all the help we received in getting through this. As for Noodles, he is doing great and is just as lovable and friendly after the whole ordeal. He and my other Greyhound wake me up with a new happy dance. He is still learning to play with toys, he actually looks guilty when he does so, but I keep encouraging him and he has decided a toy that squeeks is best! He is my constant shadow... I only wish I was as thin!

This information is for educational purposes only, always consult your veterinarian or a specialist before taking any advice or using any recommended products

Featured Greyt Stuff Shop Item

*Celebrating Greyhounds
2010*



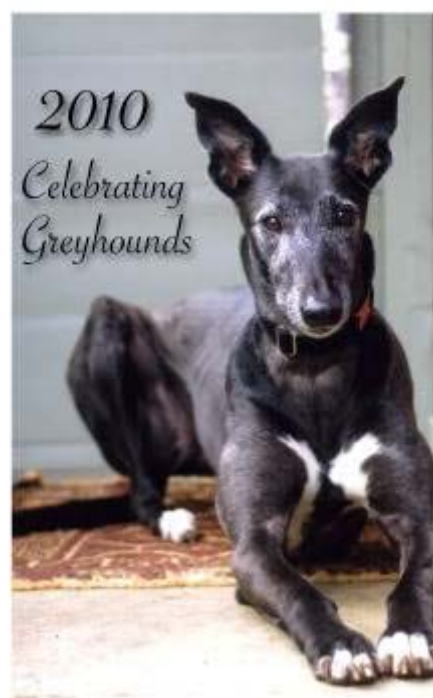
Celebrating Greyhounds 2010 Wall Calendar

Twelve month calendar with beautiful photos of Greyhounds
Makes an excellent Christmas present for a friend or yourself
\$12.00

Buy Now

Celebrating Greyhounds 2010 Desk Calendar
54 week calendar with beautiful photos of Greyhounds
A New photograph every week
Makes an excellent Christmas present for a friend or yourself
\$15.00

Buy Now



Featured Greyhound For Adoption

Marcy is a beautiful 3 1/2 year old with Maybelline mascara eyes. She is a petite red female who is very attentive, yet independent. She is content to curl up in a corner of the room wherever her people are or to go off by herself to sunbathe on nice days.

Marcy gets along fine with other Greyhounds and is learning to live with a cat. She does fine with young children and travels well. She has spurts of energetic play and at times she has been known to curl up in bed with her foster mom. Demure Marcy will be a wonderful companion and grace her new home with a little whimsical play.



Name: Marcy
Female
Age: 3
Color: Red
Size: 55 Lbs.
Cats: Cat Tolerant

[<<< See Larger Picture](#)

[See Larger Picture >>>](#)



See all of our [Adoptable Dogs](#) by visiting our website

Adoption Events - Meet a Retired Racer

Saturday November 14th, Noon - 2:00 pm Petco Hazeldell Town Center, Vancouver, WA

Saturday, November 14th, Noon - 2:00 pm, Petsmart, Wilsonville, OR

Saturday, November 28th, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Petco, Keizer, OR

Sunday, November 28th, Noon - 2:00 pm, Petco, Vancouver, WA

Special Events

Saturday November 7th, Noon - 4:00 pm, **Bowling For Greyhounds**, Milwaukie, OR

Saturday November 21st, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, **Newport Hounds Out & About**, Newport, OR

Sunday November 22nd, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, **Lincoln City Hounds Out & About**, Lincoln City, OR

Saturday December 5th, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, **Christmas Tree Sale**, Portland OR

[Details for each of these events is posted on our website](#)

For more information or to volunteer to help with any of these events, please contact our Events Coordinator by Email at EventsNW@gpa-nw.org or telephone at 800-366-1472



***Tails from the Northwest** is a newsletter for and about GPA Northwest members and our dogs. We welcome your suggestions and comments and encourage you to share stories about YOUR Greyhound.*

Please contact our editor at editornw@gpa-nw.org

Greyhound Pets of America, Northwest

PO Box 6524 Portland, OR 97228

800.366.1472 503.784.1285

www.gpa-nw.org