

Greyhound



Update

A Newsletter from the National Greyhound Adoption Program, Inc.
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Summer 1998

PICNIC 1998 Neshaminy State Park

The Neshaminy State Park is a well located beautiful facility. It has lots of blacktop parking. It sits right on the Delaware River. The store will have lots of new items for you and your greyhound. We will be giving everyone a free poop holder bucket to end your pickup problems.

Here is a list of what we'll be doing this year:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Larger Food Selection | Older Greyhound Awards |
| Free Super Pretzel | Longest Tail Awards |
| Free Water Ice | Nail Clipping Clinic |
| Play-Doh Contest | Raffle Drawing |
| DJ Entertainment | New Greyhound Store Items |
| Roving Magician | Obstacle Course Run |
| Kissing Contest | Fashion Show |

Each year we manage to make our picnic better and more fun than we have had in previous years. Don't miss it! It's fun for you and it's fun for your greyhound. Of course there will be a prize for the NGAP adopter that travels the furthest.

PICNIC IS AROUND THE CORNER WHERE ARE THE VOLUNTEERS?

The picnic is a wonderful event for people and greyhounds, but it can only come off if we have volunteers to help us make sure that it will. Thus far too few volunteers have signed up to give us a hour or two to make this event the success it always is. PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR THE PICNIC AND SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP THE DAY OF THE PICNIC!!

Please contact Vivian at NGAP's office if you wish to volunteer

LOOK FOR OUR NEW BILLBOARD!

As promised our two new billboards are now up! Hill's Pet Nutrition sponsored a billboard that is currently in the Orlando area. Orlando is the #1 tourist area in the world. ProPlan has sponsored our new circulating billboard which is presently on I-95 north of Street Road. If you travel this area it may pop up in different places from time to time.

EMPTY STOMACH SYNDROME

It seems to happen more in the summer than at any other time throughout the year. Some greyhounds will go off their food or not eat the way they usually would. The symptoms are normally a growly stomach, the desire to eat grass, not eating every meal and possibly not being interested in eating until the end of the day. Most of the time this can be cured by switching to three meals a day, dividing the food into thirds with the last meal being eaten between 9:00-10:30 p.m. Basically, what we see happens in a greyhound with an empty stomach is build-up of stomach acid and they don't have a desire to eat on a regular basis. Getting them back into stride may be a little bit of an effort. What you may have to do is entice them to eat or even force-feed.

Enticing can be done with a few different foods they always like to eat such as cooked chicken, cooked ground beef, cottage cheese or some other foods mixed in with their regular food. If this does not work you can purchase Hill's food for mature dogs which is somewhat solid. If you take a tablespoon at a time you can squeeze it in the palm of your hand so it looks somewhat like your thumb or a bullet. Open your dog's mouth with one hand and use the other hand with your index finger to shove this little torpedo down it's throat. Four or five torpedoes should do it. Normally, after about fifteen minutes your greyhound will be more interested in eating. Use the force feeding as a last resort but use it if you have to. Once you get your greyhound back into the habit of eating regularly, you should continue feeding three times a day as necessary.

E-Mail Is Nice, But If you Need To Get To Us Quickly, We Suggest You Call!

E-Mail is one of those things that is nice to have, but at the NGAP office, if you need to get us quickly, we suggest you pick up the phone and call us. We do not check E-mail everyday so if you have a problem or a question the quickest way to get a response is to pick up the phone and give us a holler.

MOVING! MOVING! MOVING!

Everybody loves to get the newsletter and everybody likes to think of the National Greyhound Adoption Program as a "safety net" for their greyhound if it gets lost. But if you move and don't give us your new address and phone number you can't get a newsletter and the "safety net" is gone. You really need to let us know when you're moving for your greyhound's health and safety.

DENTAL CARE - ARE YOU LISTENING?

The last newsletter described the importance of good oral hygiene for your greyhound. Many adopters took a look at their greyhound's mouth and called to have a dental cleaning and extractions done. One adopter that was boarding her two greyhounds was shocked when we told her that we had to do both dentals and extractions. We extracted forty-three teeth from between both of the dogs. Obviously, someone wasn't paying attention. You need to routinely look at your greyhound's mouth by lifting up it's lip.

The last newsletter talked about the Plaque Whacker which we call the brillo pad toothbrush. It is an excellent tool if you are not routinely brushing your greyhound's teeth each day but it will only work after a dental cleaning has been done. It's excellent for the adopter that brushes their dog's teeth every few weeks and will keep the teeth in good shape. You can get the Plaque Whacker from us or check with your veterinarian. It's a new product and you vet might not have it. Since we are a distributor they can purchase it from us as well. The Plaque Whacker is \$6.00 retail and \$6.00 for the gel that is used with it.

NEW JERSEY GROUP GETS TOGETHER

On June 7th, a group of South Jersey adopters decided to hold their own Summer Picnic. Merci Riccardi spearheaded this effort and had over 100 people in attendance and 40 greyhounds. A good time was had by all and when all was said and done Merci had raised \$1000.00 to help support NGAP. You can do the same in your area and it doesn't have to be a Summer Picnic. It could be a Spring, Fall or even a Winter Picnic. If you would like the names of adopters in your area you can contact this office and put together your own reunion. Merci's group had a wonderful time and so can you.



Greyhound therapy.

COLORADO STATE SHOOTS ITSELF IN THE FOOT

The last newsletter dealt with the fact that Colorado State University had been taking in approximately 1,000 greyhounds each year from the racing industry. Literally all of these greyhounds ended up being destroyed. We approached them with the concept of all of the greyhounds not being used by the university should be made available for adoption. They initially liked this concept but began to "back-pedal" when they realized this would cost them money. In the meantime, the greyhound racing industry has begun to take whatever steps necessary to make sure greyhounds won't arrive at CSU. When we last spoke to CSU they had made a 180° turn. It was now necessary to change their curriculum for eliminating terminal surgery. They now had almost no dogs for "studies" and would have to go and purchase them on the open market to continue teaching as they had done in the past. They are now offering adoption programs to bring in their greyhounds and they will neuter, spay and have their teeth cleaned free of charge and the dogs would then be returned to the adoption program. Unfortunately, they acted too slowly and now there are 1,000 greyhounds that are still at risk of dying but will probably die at breed farms and other places with a bullet to the head or some other inhumane death. The industry, of course, is doing nothing to save these 1,000 greyhounds. In their eyes the problem has gone away. We will continue to pressure the National Greyhound Association to find some way to keep these greyhounds alive.

SAFETY NET ACROSS THE COUNTRY

NGAP is sometimes the last resort for greyhounds. We frequently get calls from across the country about greyhounds that are in dire need. Sometimes its one greyhounds and there are other times when it could be scores of greyhounds. When possible we will refer to local organizations that are in a better position to take a greyhound in locally. Sometimes they are reluctant to take greyhounds from humane societies or greyhounds found in the street because of the potential of heartworm. NGAP is not like that. If we can squeeze a greyhound in our kennel and someone across the country is willing to put forth the effort to help get it to us, we will fit that greyhound in. Just recently we received a call from a Harligen, Texas greyhound facility that had many puppies (20 - 22 months old) and local organizations could not take them in. NGAP flew in six of these greyhounds.

We also received a call from Arkansas about a young, blue greyhound male and we started to arrange for that greyhound to come to us. The people in Arkansas then thought they had it adopted but that fell through and subsequently the blue boy arrived at NGAP. These such occurrences are frequent and go on throughout the year but they need your support to make them happen.

WEST PALM TRACK TURNS NASTY

The greyhound track in West Palm Beach has had an adoption program for many years. We consider it less than spectacular. The housing for the greyhounds is totally inadequate. The care level could best be considered poor. A group of volunteers from that organization split off and found someone willing to invest in purchasing a property for a kennel. They started their adoption flyers after hours and prepared for their grand opening. The flyer made mention of 28,000 greyhounds that died each year and when the track saw this they had a fit. The women that was lined up to be the caretaker for the greyhounds had been employed at the track, and she was fired. The track wanted the flyer scrapped and sent an ultimatum that this new organization could have no dealings with us. Many of the volunteers for the group were greyhound industry people and they began getting pressure from the track as well. It was determined that the person investing the money for this facility to come about was in disfavor with the track people in the organization and they quickly voted him out of their organization because they were advocates of greyhounds. They removed the new cages from this facility and now there are no greyhounds there. We visited this new facility and although it could only house about ten greyhounds it was clean, modern and quite adequate. Now, of course, the track has their old adoption program back with crummy crates and poor care for the greyhounds. We're not done with West Palm, that's for sure.

IOWA STATE GETS A SCARE

Iowa State University was one of the universities we polled using the Freedom of Information Act to determine how many greyhounds they took in and what was done with them. In the past four years they took in five hundred fifty-five greyhounds but only adopted six. The rest were destroyed as part of their teaching studies. Somehow they received word we were about to bring a media blite against them. From insiders we heard how worried they were.

ALL ABOUT SARAH

Recently, while in Florida, we came across a tiny female that had been acquired by the University of Florida to be a blood donor. Sarah weighs presently and certainly would not qualify to be a blood donor. She had a broken hock and the vet at the University of Florida took pity on her (or just decided to use her for a teaching exercise). In any case they pinned her hock after first letting her sit around with it broken for several weeks. Unfortunately, it was later found out that they put a pin through a tendon and subsequently surgery was needed to correct that problem. When we met up with her she was in foster care in Boca Raton, Florida. Two days after we left we heard that one of the other dogs that was in foster care with Sarah had gotten nipped, and Sarah was blamed. So Sarah is now in Philadelphia presently at the director's house, limping some, but doing well.

HAVE YOUR OWN "MINI-PICNIC"

In South Jersey, we are very lucky to have a group of dedicated and dependable volunteers. We do lots of greyhound adoption days at the Super-Fresh stores at the shore and other events when possible. We've gotten to be a close-knit group of ten, meeting for lunch at our favorite Chinese restaurant, and holding holiday parties to meet new adopters in our area.

In the Spring, at one of these gatherings the idea of having a "mini-picnic" in South Jersey sprung up. We formed a committee, had weekly meetings and before we knew it, Sunday, June 7th was our South Jersey Greyhound Picnic! And what a day it was! Perfect weather, great food, games and contests and best of all, we donated over \$1,000.00 to NGAP!!

Any of you can do it! It was lots of hard work but lots of fun too! Over 100 people and 42 dogs attended and a good time was had by all! Here's how:

1. Delegate, delegate, delegate - I can't stress enough! Choose a chairperson to coordinate and assign duties. We all worked well together and cooperation showed in a successful event!
2. Picnic Site - one that allows dogs - possibly a county park or 4-H facility. Ours had a pavilion with tables and barbecue grills at a nominal fee.
3. Date - we chose a Sunday thinking more people would be available.
4. Mailing List - at least a 30 mile radius. This year we'll expand to 50 miles!
5. Donations - ask local merchants, employers, etc. Several people from our group work for local supermarkets, so we were able to get lots of food donated. Plus many people asked if they could bring something - desserts are a good item to ask for! Our menu included burgers, etc. and lots of watermelons. There were 10 donated by a local farm market!
6. Plan contests, games and activities for the kids like face painting. Make sure you have prizes. Nothing fancy, just lots of fun!
7. Money raising ideas - our 50/50 raffle was super! We also raffled off gift baskets and of course we set up the greyhound store!
8. Picnic Package - through donations, etc. we were able to give everyone a terrific bag of treats for dogs and people alike! The big hit of the day was freshly smoked pig skins from Haines Pork Shoppe in Mickelton, New Jersey.
9. Be sure to follow the rules of the park - no alcohol, no loose dogs, pick up after your dogs, etc. Just common sense!

We are now planning our Christmas Party to be held Sunday, December 6th. If you would like to attend or volunteer your services, please call me at (609) 266-7818. Also, call if you have any questions about your own event.

Merci Riccardi, "Hershey Bar" &
"Reeses Peanut Butter Cup"
Brigantine, New Jersey

"1998 Picnic Raffle Prizes"

1st Prize A - Zeneth 52" screen TV w/high res. video processor, multiple video preset, wide band video amplifier, Delta 67 Lens system, High compliance speakers- 3 X 20 watts audio amps, trackball remote control and lumaversal remote control Retail Price - \$3500.00

1st Prize B - 2 Round trip tickets on USAirways to anywhere in the continental U.S. that USAirways flies.

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*Rate per person, double occupancy, Country Club standard. Effective May 28 - Jun 14 & Sept 1 - Oct 30, 98. Holiday packages may apply. Taxes, Hotel & U.S. Gov't fees & BWI airport fee (55¢) not added to payment. 518 Bahamas departure tax/airport fee not incl. Subject to change, availability, terms & conditions. Flights via Laker Airways. Bahamas limited area December 1998.

2nd Prize - Carpet - \$1500.00 value

3rd Prize - ProPlan for a year.

4th Prize - Science Diet for a year.

5th Prize - Beautifully Framed Print - Christine Merrill's "Greyhound in the Park"

6th Prize - Richo Model #RDC2 Digital Camera

