

The Home Run

Greyhound Rescue of N.E.

Greyhounds Waiting to Go Home

Spring 2018

We have some very dedicated, caring volunteers who have been coming to the kennel once a week (some for many years) and walking all the kennel dogs. It is the dogs' favorite time of the day (although eating is a very close second). This is such wonderful experience for the Greyhounds. They get some exercise, socialize, and thoroughly enjoy this stimulating experience. We know how important this is for the enrichment of the kennel dogs. We plan in the spring to introduce some agility equipment to the back-walking area... more fun for the dogs. If you would like to come once a week (usually in the a.m.) and walk our dogs, please call the kennel.



Save the Date

Our Greyhound Reunion/
Walk-a-thon is set for
September 8th
at Riverbend Farm
in Uxbridge.

Mark your calendars.



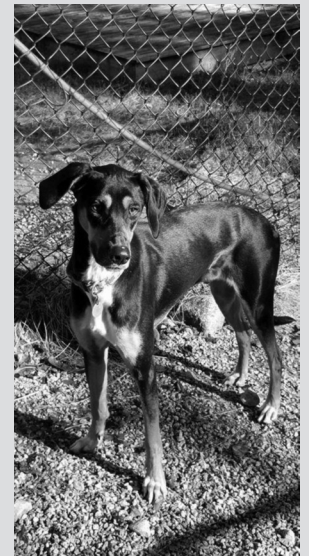
A Note from one of our Dog Walkers:

Greyhounds are quiet dogs, most bark only occasionally but as I enter the office they know someone has arrived. The vocalizing begins, they know an arrival could mean a walkie. "ME, take ME out." Which one first - I love them all, but find in each group I'll have a favorite. Smooth Daddy would lean his head up on my hip and gaze adoringly into my eyes. With martingale collar and leash in hand, one dog goes out with me into the run. Ecstatic to be free he runs up and down the concrete steps, bounces off my back (always turn around or you'll be knocked over!) and comes to settle at the gate to the yard. Nose pointed out, on goes the collar, slip the leash end around my wrist, hold the leash tightly, open the gate and we're off. Nose to ground, going in no particular direction, we quickly walk down towards the goats' area. Most are very interested in the goats, the goats not so much. We walk around the perimeter and their noses are still attached to the ground but then their heads will lift and gaze into the woods. They seem very peaceful as they stare and this is why I come to walk them, to treat them like real dogs on a walk just for the pleasure of it. Repetition helps them understand walking on a leash and gives me time to touch them gently. Do you like ear rubs? Can I lift your paw? I let them sniff as much as they want and we make a loop arriving back at the gate. They go in quietly and run up to the door. Off comes the walking collar, hand to their kennel collar, open the door and lead them to their kennel. Some go in easily, some need a gentle push. They turn around and give me a look that goes straight to my heart. I hope someone will come and fall in love with you soon. ~ **Eileen Moyer**



Meet Ricky

We received a call that a dog had been picked up by the Lynn Dog Officer after his owner died. No family members wanted him and he found himself homeless. They said he was a Greyhound cross, little guy at 50 lbs., and his name was Ricky. We took him in. We're not sure if there is Greyhound in him, maybe. But we do know he's a young (maybe 2 at the most) happy, sweet guy. He so friendly, really wants to please, and play, play, play. He's also content and clean in his crate, waiting for his turn to shine. He can sit, give the paw, and give kisses. Someone loved him, that's for sure. And now he needs a new person to love him. He needs to learn to walk on a leash (way too excited), we're working on that. He'd do best with a patient family that can work with him on training, I bet he'd love kids of his own, and probably a fenced yard. He's really a very sweet guy, please consider him.....he needs a home.



REALITY CHECK: THINGS THAT YOUR DOG WANTS YOU TO UNDERSTAND

By: Debby McMullen

Knowledge in all forms seems to wax and wane according to the dynamics of the times that we live in. This is consistent on all subjects but in particular, with dog behavior knowledge. We have come so far with an understanding of dog behavior and how to modify it, yet old school techniques and thought processes remain in the forefront of the public eyes and ears. The past refuses to die a proper death and dogs pay for this with their psyches and sometimes, their lives.

The only part of the ancient dog behavior knowledge that is truly accurate yet hasn't seemed to be retained as common-sense knowledge is to allow dogs to actually be dogs. Now they must be little furry humans who have reasoning powers beyond their species, along with impeccable and preprogrammed manners.

We expect dogs to live serenely and effortlessly in a world of human's making without showing any signs of being dogs. Then we are surprised when they act like dogs. We need to learn to respect dogs for who they are rather than the fantasy of who we think they should be. Lassie is a fallacy, made up for good ratings.

The renowned dog behavior expert Jean Donaldson once said, "Just a generation ago if you went near a dog when he was eating and the dog growled, somebody would say, "Don't go near the dog when he's eating! What are you, crazy?" Now the dog gets euthanized. Back then, dogs were allowed to say "No!" Dogs are not allowed to say no anymore. They can't get freaked out, they can't be afraid, they can never signal, "I'd rather not." We don't have any kind of nuance with regards to dogs expressing that they are uncomfortable, afraid, angry, in pain, worried or upset. If the dog is ever anything other than completely sunny and goofy every second, he goes from a nice dog to an "AGGRESSIVE DOG".

It appears that the more we progress into modern times, the more that we expect dogs to be some sort of furry humans that can make critical thinking decisions at the drop of a hat. My dogs are super smart but they are not humans and I don't expect human intelligence level decisions from them. Especially when in relation to behaviors and situations that I have not spent an iota of time training them for.

Please accept your dogs for the wonderful creatures that they are. Understand that we expect them to live in our world so it behooves us to spend time learning about how they learn so that we can effectively communicate with them. They deserve nothing less than us safely and humanely teaching them to how to live in a world of our choosing. This is nothing more than we would want for ourselves. Below are the just the high points. There is so much more but for now, this will suffice.

1. Dogs are entitled to have their meals uninterrupted. This means you, dear dog parent. Placing your hands in your dog's food bowl only makes them annoyed, not under some delusion that you are some deity that deserves their undying gratitude. If someone repeatedly or even regularly but infrequently stuck their hands in your dinner plate, are you more likely to consider violence against them or think them

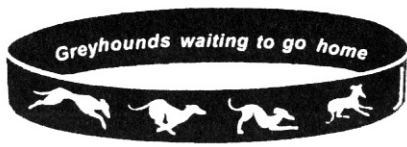
your master? Enough said. (This also goes for any high value or not recreational chew items that you give your dog. If your dogs threaten you when you are near these items, hire a professional.) If you truly want your dog to think you are a rock star, then drop a piece of boiled chicken in their kibble bowl anytime you are near it and then you will get kudos from your dog, to all of his friends. Thinking that the former is the way to go is actually a really effective way to create the resource guarding that you are trying in vain to prevent. Don't go there.

2. Along those same lines, dogs are also entitled to sleep uninterrupted. I could retire young if I had a dollar for every single time I got a complaint about someone's dog growling/snapping when touched/petted/hugged while sleeping. I don't know about you but I am also pretty prone to striking out unintentionally if touched unexpectedly while deeply sleeping. Add to this equation a newly adopted dog who has not yet formed a relationship of trust with his current humans and you have a serious potential for problems with this expectation. Don't expect more of your dog while sleeping than you would expect of a human new to you. Everyone deserves some body respect.

3. Socialization is a very misunderstood word in the dog world. Let's say that you were forced as a child to go a lot of places that scared you and you were very stressed inwardly at all of these places yet you never showed how you felt outwardly. Would that then mean that you were socialized to these places simply because you were repeatedly exposed to them? The adult in you knows perfectly well that you do not like these places that you went as a child and would now go out of your way to avoid them. And at some point when you felt pushed beyond all endurance, you would likely have a meltdown at such a place if forced to go again against your will as an adult. This is exactly what happens to puppies who tolerate places/things/people/experiences as a puppy and then one day when they feel safe with their own voice, "speak up" about how they really feel about these situations. In a nutshell, exposure does not equal socialization. The exposure has to be enjoyable to fall into that category. Make your puppy's socialization enjoyable.

4. You are a social being. You like going to a variety of places. Your preference is taking your dog to all of the places that you can possibly get away with taking him to, right? However, I can guarantee that your dog does not always enjoy these places/events/situations as you would have hoped. Too many people, too much noise, people being intrusive into his personal space, scary looking actions, etc. all contribute to a recipe for a very stressed dog. Sometimes this is visible outwardly, sometimes not so much.

5. "He doesn't know his commands." That phrase makes me cringe, dear dog parents. Dogs don't come to you knowing what words and phrases mean. It's up to you to teach them. But before the words are used, teach the behaviors and THEN attach the meaning to the words. And then instead of calling them commands, call them cues. Because that is what they really are. A signal, whether environmental or verbal that triggers the dog into a specific behavior that you have taught.



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Foster Homes

are always needed. You can help save a Greyhound's life by fostering for 2-4 week period. This will free up a crate in the kennel and we can save another dog. Then you tell us something about the dog's personality, making placement easier.