

The Home Run

Greyhound Rescue of N.E.

Greyhounds Waiting to Go Home

Spring 2008

The Joys of Fostering

by Jean Riganati

“How can you foster and then give the dogs up?”

This is the question I'm asked all the time. I have been fostering greyhounds for almost two years now and I love it! The reason I can do this is because I believe that I am helping out the shelter by taking a Greyhound out of the kennel and leaving a space open to bring in and save another dog.

In addition, it is very helpful to the shelter to get the dog into a home situation to see how he or she reacts to other animals and different people; to get the dog leash trained and house trained (if needed); and, most importantly, to get a general sense of how the dog reacts in a home, which in turn speeds up the adoption process.

When this information is brought back to Diane, with her keen insight, knowledge and experience, I have complete confidence that she is going to match up the dog with the perfect family. I find it extremely rewarding when Diane calls and tells me that “so and so went to their forever home.” And



to see the progress a dog makes while in foster care is the ultimate satisfaction, especially if the dog being fostered has a problem that needs to be addressed before he or she can be adopted out.

I once fostered a dog who was labeled “high energy,” as she always showed that behavior at the kennel. When I got her into my home and she got into a routine, she was as calm as could be, making it an easy adoption. She was adopted within a

month of coming to my home, to a very nice couple in Connecticut. That was in the Summer of 2006, and I still correspond with the new owners. The relationships I develop along the way with some of the adoptive families who want to stay in touch is another wonderful benefit I've enjoyed from fostering.

Fostering also gives me a chance to have a new dog every few weeks. Don't get me wrong: I love every Greyhound I have fostered. Each one has touched me in a different and

Continued on page 2

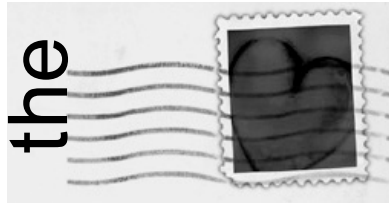


Fundraiser Yard Sale!

We are planning our annual spring Yard Sale. We need items to sell! Do you have anything you would like to donate? You can clean out your attic, basement, or garage. Just bring us your stuff—and it's tax deductible! This event has been a huge success in the past, raising \$2,000-\$3,000 for GRNE each year. We love seeing all our friends again as they bring us their items or shop till they drop. Please help us make this our best Yard Sale yet! Call the kennel for drop off times. But please, no large furniture items—they're more than we can handle.

From

the



Mailroom



Hi GRNE,

I am writing with an update on **Cape Cod Viking** (our **Andy**). Andy lost the battle with Hemangiosarcoma some time ago. He was a beautiful blue boy. We often tell people how we got Andy. We received a call from you stating you had a blue dog available for adoption and due to their rarity, you like to give them to a home that had already adopted from you. We already had three hounds, and you said there weren't many people you'd give a fourth dog to. We came down with our alpha dog Henry to see if they would get along, and since they did we had a decision to make. Andy's eyes sealed the deal in a matter of moments. Andy's personality developed slowly, but once it was out, he was a hellion.

Andy knew he couldn't touch anything on the coffee tables, but one day the smell of vanilla eggnog got the better of him. I got up from my chair to get something from the kitchen and when I was walking back to the living room I saw this gray streak zinging into Andy's kennel. I guess he figured the punishment was worth it and he put himself into his kennel! Needless to say I got a new cup of eggnog.

When it was time to wake up and eat breakfast he'd kick our bed with his front leg, and if we didn't immediately stir, he'd kick again, bow down and give a deep WOOF! I could go on and on with his antics, he truly touched our lives. I'd like to thank you for calling us that fateful day. Our lives were forever changed thanks to you and Andy.

Kind regards,
Peter and Nancy

Fostering, *continued from page 2*

special way. The Greyhounds that come to my home all get the same love, attention, and special treatment my own dogs enjoy. With many dogs that I've fostered I've said to my husband, "I'm falling in love with this dog, maybe we should adopt him." But I know as soon as I do that, I would not be able to foster because I have several dogs of my own and I would not have the room to both own a Greyhound and to provide temporary housing to numerous other Greyhounds.

That's why it is much more important to me to be able to

help the shelter by fostering. Won't you consider fostering a Greyhound? Fostering is so important to the shelter and foster homes are always needed. It will be one of the most rewarding things you could do for these wonderful animals.

Heartfelt thanks to our wonderful Foster Mom, volunteer, and friend Jean. She's an invaluable Greyhound advocate who helps with everything we do here. We are so grateful for all you do, and the Greyhounds you foster love you very much!

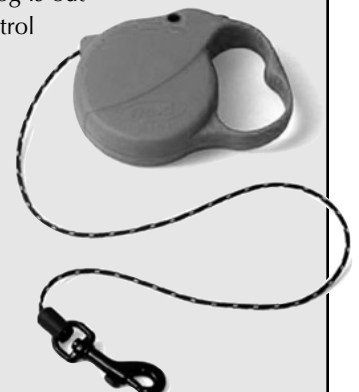
No Retractable Leads, Please!

Once again someone dropped the retractable leash and their Greyhound took off running in terror, with the big plastic handle bouncing and chasing him. The petrified Greyhound tore down the street and into the woods. The next day there was a Nor'easter storm and everyone was so worried about him. He was dragging 20 feet of leash and would inevitably get it tangled in the woods. Not being able to get out of the winter elements is the worst thing that could happen to him.

This story has a happy ending as the Greyhound was found three days later. He evidently had chewed through the leash

and freed himself. But the moral of the story is that flexi leads are not appropriate for your Greyhound, for a couple of reasons. First of all, if your dog is out 20 feet, you're really not in control of the dog. Another dog could come out and attack your dog in a second. And I've heard many, many stories of people who drop the handle. It's far too dangerous and I don't believe people should gamble with their Greyhound's safety.

Sine Stevens



Sugar, Sugar...Continued

SUGAR is the sweet little girl (hence the name) we featured in our last newsletter. She came off the track last June with an old injury. We worked hard to help her heal. But after seven months of extensive surgery and other treatments, it was decided that the best thing for her would be to amputate the injured leg. It was a huge decision.

When it was time to pick her up at the vet after her amputation, we were so nervous. How sore would she be? How would she get around? How would she get down the step to the outdoors? How would she maneuver on the snow? What would the other dogs think?

We spent many hours preparing for her return: we chipped the ice in the pen, set up beds and rugs in the office, moved things that might be in her way, did everything we could think of to make her comfortable. We figured she'd have lots of space in the office, so that's where she'd stay.

As it turns out, our concerns were unfounded. She walked (or, more accurately, hopped) into the office, and proceeded to stroll all around the kennel. She went right out into the dog pen, peed and pooped, and then pranced back inside.

She sniffed all through the office and back rooms and picked a spot for her bed—not where I had set it up. She was so happy to be back to what she considers to be her home. She is not handicapped at all!



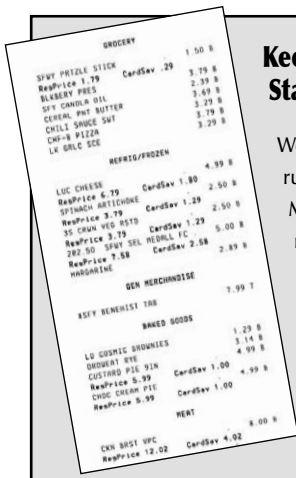
This little Greyhound has so much courage. She's going to get around and enjoy life to the fullest. We just love her so much.

So with all that said, in a few weeks she will be looking for her Forever Home. If you think you have a place in your quiet home (and a big place in your heart) for this great dog, please call us.

When we took Sugar last June, we had no inkling of the long medical road we'd be taking with her. But we assumed responsibility for her and did what was needed for her well being.

If you would like to help with Sugar's veterinary bills, which are extensive, please send a donation to our kennel and mark it "Sugar." Every bit of help is greatly appreciated.

And heartfelt thanks to all of Sugar's friends at Bellingham Animal Hospital. Dr. Conley and the entire staff there always treated her with kindness, happiness, and joy! She actually enjoyed her many, many trips there.



Keep those Shaw's and Star Market receipts coming!

We are participating in a special program run by Shaw's Supermarkets and Star Market in which they give us 1% of all food receipts we can collect (some items excluded). So, please save your Shaw's and Star Market receipts and send them to us at GRNE, P.O. Box 507, Mendon, MA 01756. We always welcome the opportunity to take advantage of a creative funding source!



Most Needed

- Laundry detergent, bleach, Pinesol
- Copy paper, envelopes, stamps
- Heartworm pills, Advantix
- Vet Wrap, non-stick bandages, adhesive tape
- Blankets & quilts
- Homes with big cushy beds and lots of love



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MENDON, MA
PERMIT NO. 37

Greyhound Rescue of N.E., Inc.
P.O. Box 507
Mendon, MA 01756



Save the Date!
Saturday, September 27th
Greyhound Reunion & Walk
Lots of fun for all!



Please Help Us Help the Greyhounds

I would like to help support Greyhound Rescue of N.E.'s efforts by contributing:

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

For Emergency Medical Fund: \$ _____

Mail this form and your check or money order (made payable) to:

**Greyhound Rescue
of N.E., Inc.
P.O. Box 507
Mendon, MA 01756**

All donations
are tax deductible!

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
E-mail _____



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.

Board Your Greyhound

We can board up to six Greyhounds at a time here at the kennel. They'll have fun socializing with other Greyhounds in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. We



book up quickly, so let us know as soon as you need to board. We will cater to your Greyhound's every need!

New Boarding Fee effective 1/1/05: Each dog: \$20 per day

We book up quickly so let us know as soon as you need to board!