



PRESIDENT'S CORNER **By Barbara Hansen**

When my husband and I saw our first greyhound at a meet and greet back in 2004, we were totally blown away by "that face". We saw the wisdom of the ages in those eyes. The simple elegance of the greyhound's design had us hooked. Within a few months, we had adopted our first greyhound, Smokie, through Greyhound Welfare. By the end of the year, we were foster parents. And the following year we added another greyhound, Tanner, to our family. Smokie and Tanner were affectionately referred to as The Boyz.

Our family had joined the "Greyhound Cult". Per Oxford's English Dictionary a cult is a misplaced or excessive admiration for a particular thing. Yep, that's us. We aren't sure when we joined. It kind of crept up on us and then suddenly we were members. After The Boyz crossed Rainbow Bridge, we considered rescuing a smaller dog but we just couldn't find that simple greyhound elegance. So we ended up failing at fostering and adopted our third greyhound, Chelsea. Our fate was sealed. We definitely have lifetime membership in the Greyhound Cult.

We have often wondered what makes us so drawn to the greyhound. It's more than the beauty and elegance of the breed. It's their calm personality, their willingness to gather with other greyhounds and enjoy the company, and their devotion to their humans. And as with any cult, we seek out others with greyhounds so we can strengthen our bond with our greyhounds and develop new friendships with other greyhound owners. We think nothing of packing the car with Chelsea and all of her comfort needs, and driving miles to gather with other greyhound families. We compare notes on collars of all colors and design, on coats - to snood or not to snood, on toys with the best squeakers, etc. We talk about every nuance of greyhound ownership, always seeming to end up talking about poop, LOL. And then when the visit is over, we pack everything back in the car with Chelsea in tow and all of her comfort needs, and drive home, only to look forward to the next event so we can do it all again.

And now that Spring is finally here, we will be attending various outdoor activities with Chelsea. There are lots of activities coming up now through the Fall. Many of them are mentioned in this issue of The Skinny. We plan to head out to a gathering or two or five or ten! After all, we do have a lifetime membership to the Greyhound Cult. We hope to see you and your hounds at a few gatherings!

Barbara Hansen, President

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OUT AND ABOUT With Your Greyhound By Barbara Schmidt & Lucy Kon, Greyhound Welfare Outreach Team

Did you know April is National Adopt-a-Greyhound Month? Now that Spring has finally sprung, our thoughts turn to a fun packed season of greyhound events. Check these out.

Greyhounds in Gettysburg (GiG)

www.greyhoundsgivinggettysburg.org

Gettysburg, PA

April 23-26, 2015

17th Annual Event – One of the biggest greyhound gatherings in the world!

Come to this event if you like: history, speakers talking about greyhounds, shopping for greyhound (and human) goods, walking the battlefields of Gettysburg with your hound.

Register on the website.

Greys and Grapes (formerly Grapehounds Virginia)

www.greysandgrapes.com

Leesburg, VA

May 15-17, 2015

A fun, local event featuring greyhounds, wine and the people who love them.

You should consider attending this event if you like to: Hang out with greyhounds and their humans, taste wonderful VA wines, shop for greyhound stuff, drive around the beautiful VA countryside and support local businesses!

Guest Speaker: Lee Livingood, author of Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies.

Register on the website.

Greyhound Welfare Wine Tasting Fundraiser (info soon to come on our Facebook page and Yahoo group)

The Winery at Olney, Olney, MD

Sunday, June 7th 6:00-9:00pm

This fundraising event for GW will be a fun evening of wine tasting, snacks, raffles and more! Registration will begin in late April.

Please come and support our wonderful, all volunteer organization so we can find homes for more deserving greyhounds

The Grapehound Wine Tour New York

www.grapehounds.com

Watkins Glen, NY (Seneca Lake area)

July 30 – August 2, 2015

Set among the beautiful scenery of New York's Finger Lakes, this event features more than 20 wineries!

Come to this event if you like to: enjoy breathtaking lake scenery, shop in a giant vendor tent, listen to music, taste wine, and hang out with greyhound friends and take an awesome greyhound walk to a beautiful waterfall.

Register on the website.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach

www.grtb.org

Dewey Beach/Rehoboth, DE

October 8 – 11, 2015

The granddaddy of all greyhound events! Greyhounds, the Beach, Speakers, and Shopping. This year's event promises to be the best one in years since it's being officially organized again.

You will love this event if you love: The Beach (uncrowded, allowing for long leisurely walks with your greyhound friends), great fall time weather (hopefully), shopping for both greyhounds and humans (many of the outlets allow greyhounds to come in with you), fantastic dining and...of course...greyhounds! We rent a beach house and stay for the whole week!

Greyhound Welfare Annual Picnic!

Fall 2015

Back By Popular Demand!

We are working on dates/ locations and will notify you soon about 'saving the date.'

We hope to see you and your hounds at some (or all) of these events!

*Barbara Schmidt and Lucy Kon,
GW Outreach Team*



Reston Pet Fiesta

The Reston Pet Fiesta (www.petfiesta.org) in Reston, VA will take place on Saturday May 2, 2015 from 10:00-4:00. Greyhound Welfare will be there to showcase & educate people about our wonderful greyhounds as pets.

We look forward to this event as it will give us some nice exposure.

You can help us by volunteering for a 2 hour shift with your greyhound.

The shifts will be from 10am-12, 12-2pm, or 2-4pm.

We will be protected from the sun & elements. We will also have crates set up for doggie breaks.

This event is rain or shine. Admission is FREE.

Please consider volunteering if your greyhound does well with crowds, loud noises, children and other dog breeds.

Contact Barbara Schmidt at bs7411@yahoo.com if you wish to volunteer or have any questions.

Greyhound Welfare Wine Tasting Fundraiser

The Winery at Olney, Olney, MD
Sunday, June 7th 6:00-9:00pm

We are very excited to be hosting our first Greyhound Welfare fundraising party at The Winery at Olney in Olney, MD on Sunday, June 7th. This promises to be a fun evening of wine tasting, friends, raffles, snacks and more.

Tickets will be \$25 online (\$30 at the door) and will include 5 wine tastings and light hors d'oeuvres. A portion of ticket sales will go to benefit GW. Additionally, for each bottle of wine you purchase that night, The Winery will donate \$10 to Greyhound Welfare. Sounds like a win-win!

This is a greyhound friendly event...the hounds will be allowed inside! However, space for humans and hounds will be limited.

Registration will begin in late April and we will notify you via the Yahoo group, GW's Facebook page and the greyhoundwelfare.org website once registration opens.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

FOSTERING - What's It All About?

Collaborative, by various foster parents

Fostering a greyhound is an important step toward bringing a retired racer to their 4-ever home. As many know, Greyhound Welfare is a foster home program for placement of retired racing greyhounds. Greyhound Welfare's ability to place retired racers is only limited by the number of foster homes available in our program. Greyhound Welfare is always in need of foster homes in order to make these placements. During the fostering period, the newly retired greyhound learns how to transition from being institutionalized to enjoy being a domesticated pet. Greyhound Welfare provides its foster homes with all supplies and pays any necessary veterinary expenses. The only requirements of foster parents are to provide the retired racer with love and stability, and to take your foster to two Greyhound Welfare Open Houses a month. In return, you will have the joy of seeing a racer blossom into a pet and then "pick" their 4-ever home. As our President, Barbara Hansen, says "Believe me - after fostering many greyhounds, I am still amazed to watch a dazed and confused new dog come right off the truck and transition into a pet who enjoys tummy rubs, ear scratches and toys. And when the day comes that one of my fosters leaves with a new 4-ever family, I'm overjoyed. I've done my job; I've been that stepping stone."

Some of our Greyhound Welfare foster parents have shared their thoughts (and pictures!) with The Skinny. Jill Shohet started fostering as a way to see how a dog fit into her life, and ease into the commitment of having a greyhound. "Fostering gave me time and experience to know when I found the perfect dog for me. Adoptions are usually bitter-sweet - saying goodbye is hard, but it is worth it seeing the

dog go off to their forever home, and seeing how excited their new people are to have them." Jane Acosta agrees it can be hard to see a foster leave. "I foster because I can make a difference in one dog's life. I fall in love with every single one. It's hard to see them leave but the adopted parents are beyond the moon with joy. I have kept in contact with many fosters (and I babysit) so some of them never *really* leave my life. I also love how quick they learn and how funny they can sometimes be."

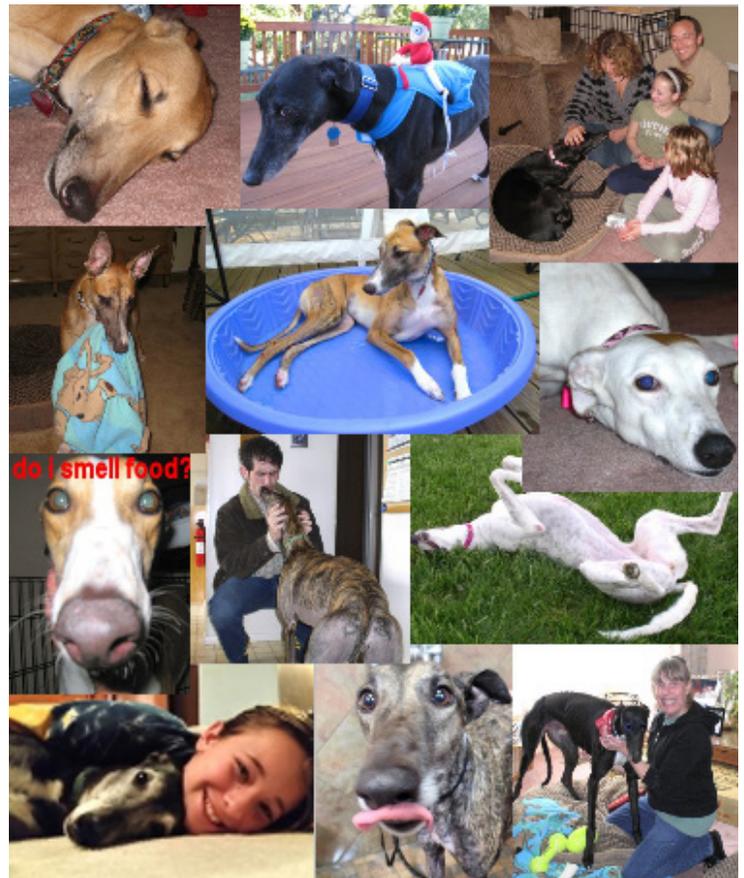
Other foster parents also comment on the special bond created with the newly-retired racer. Sheryl Engel says that fostering is "the opportunity and privilege to be both witness and nurturer of a life form that learns, grows, and develops." Edith Wooten says "Each houndie we've welcomed into our home has taught us volumes more than we taught, making us much better caregivers." And she counts the reasons to foster, "I can think of three: Foster Zoohorn, Foster Tess, and Foster Frost. You, like Gigi, have given us memories we'll always cherish. You have made us laugh, and cry. You have made us better people, and we are forever in your debt."

If you would like to find out more about fostering a retired racer looking for his/her 4-ever home, please visit our website (www.greyhoundwelfare.org) and select "Contact Us". There you can submit a foster application so a volunteer can contact you about our fostering program.

You can make a difference and give a life to a retired racer.

Some of Our Fosters Through The Years...

Rick & Barbara Hansen



LIMONCHELA'S TRAVELS

By Limonchela and her mom, Montse Duran

Traveling with a greyhound can be rewarding, but even a weekend at a bed and breakfast takes preparation. If you're traveling further and longer, you'll want to be sure that you have a source for your hound's food and for purified water. Look for a greyhound-savvy vet at your destination, and take any medications, a spare collar, leash, and muzzle, and clothes and toys and bedding for the crate. Be sure you keep current tags on your hound at all times. In December 2014, Montse flew with Limonchela ("Flying Angelika", now 5 years old, gotcha day 7/27/14) to spend a month in Costa Rica with her family. This is their story.



Flying with a greyhound is not easy or cheap, but sharing my vacations in the country I was born with my best friend Limonchela was a great experience for me and my Costa Rica family and friends. These are the things we did to make Chela's travels safe and happy.

OK, what's going on here, a big new crate? OK, nobody is looking, perhaps I'll take a quick nap inside.



As soon you know the date, make the reservation for your hound and ask for the biggest size of crate the plane can accommodate. It's normally 40 x 27 x 30, unless the plane is a 737 or smaller. Ask again at least one week before the flight to be sure - I received three different answers!

Trip to the vet? OK, just a check up. The vet tells mom I'm very healthy, and that I can travel.

Your vet must be authorized to issue a travel Health Certificate within 10 days of travel. I personally visited the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection (APHIS) office to have the certificate endorsed. It can be done by mail, but due to the time constrictions I highly recommend making an appointment in the office assigned to your state. You can find information about the requirements and the office locations at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

Mom is so happy calling everybody telling them I'm ready for the trip and that they will love me. Of course they will, I'm a greyhound! We get up very early and my mom's friend is here with a big car for my new crate and all the luggage. My mom's favorite nephew, Arnold, is visiting from Costa Rica, and he's tall and skinny like me. Everybody is so excited and noisy, and they hug me and wish me good luck in Costa Rica!

Also contact the airline and the Consulate of the destination country to find out if there are any additional requirements.

A packing list for your hound will include a good coat or sweater for the trip (depending on weather), bottles of water, 2-3 days of food, collapsible food plate, favorite toy, and something to make her feel safe (I used my pajama shirt). Bring the leash, poop bags, and a big roll of wide tape. Bring the mild sedative your vet recommended. Don't attach anything to the crate yet.

We're at the airport. The airline people measure and weigh my crate, and me. Oh no, my crate is too big and mom is almost crying. A phone call, and a friend to the rescue with a different crate. Inside that one they give me a ball of peanut butter with a pill inside (I know that trick!) but it tastes good and I'm feeling happy, relaxed.



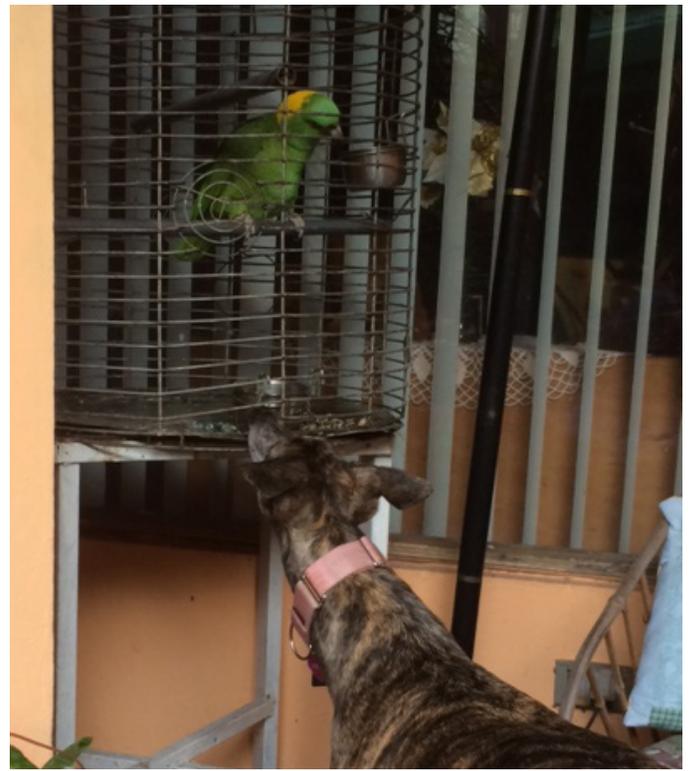
At the airport they will separately weigh the crate and the dog. Both together can't weigh more than 100 pounds, which is why you don't want the water and food weighed with the crate! Homeland Security will also inspect the crate.

Mom says bye bye, see you soon, and I'm falling asleep so it's OK. Some big guys lift my crate and take me in a car to an airplane. I'm cozy in my sweater and coat and have a blanket in my crate. It's dark, and I fall asleep and then everything is shaking and moving and there's a big noise, but it's OK. Must be that peanut butter.



And it is here when you say goodbye to your hound. The inspector closes the crate with 4 plastic zip tags for extra security and "live animal" stickers and documentation, and you attach the water, food, leash and plate to the top of the crate. If you have connecting flights and at least two hours in a transit airport, you can take your hound out to visit the relief area, and give water and lots of love. For a direct international flight your hound will stay crated until all the paperwork has been inspected by Customs and Agricultural services.

It seems like no time and then mom is there again, giving me water and a snack and it's warm and we go for a long ride in the car and then we're there. Paradise! There are squirrels here and they're red. There's a bird making funny greyhound noises at me, mom says it's a parrot. There are clothes drying on a line in the wind and it looks like they're flying! I found sand! It is so great to dig holes in the sand and lie in them.



I'm so proud to be Costa Rican! I meet my grandparents, uncles, cousins and friends, everybody is so nice. I visit many houses and behave very well. When I'm walking with my mom everyone stops to ask about me and admire my greyhound beauty. Mom says when she retires we will live in our house in Costa Rica. She can even get my same food here, yum!

So finally, you and your friend can go and enjoy your vacation, after all the preparation and hard work to get here you deserve it! Your best friend will be with you!

The month passes by so fast and one day I go back in my crate with the peanut butter ball. At the airport everyone is very nice and treats me with respect and carefully puts me in the airplane so I can go home to Arlington with my mom. Traveling is amazing but I have decided not for everyone – if you are very shy or nervous you might not like it. Travel is for divas and jet setters like mom and me...

WHY I FOSTER

By Kathy Pelech

The primary reason that I foster is that I understand how critical a step it is for getting the dogs out of the adoption kennels in Florida and into forever homes. I was shocked when I learned how many dogs are in limbo in the adoption kennels. By being a foster, I'm having a direct impact on making a difference - one dog at a time. If I didn't foster, one less dog would be able to be brought up from Florida. I'm sure the adoption kennels take good care of the dogs, but it is so sad to see how many of them are waiting for a chance to be adopted. That is my primary reason. A secondary reason is that I enjoy working with the dogs to help them start their transition to living in a completely new environment.

My favorite part of fostering is when an approved adopter comes to my home to visit the foster and within 5 minutes I can read on their faces this is the dog for them. It's nice to be part of helping folks find a dog that will bring them such joy for years to come.

Folks ask me all the time how I can bear to have a dog live with me for several weeks and then just watch them walk away. Honestly, I'm rarely sad when they leave since I know they are leaving to be a huge part of someone's life. I'm merely a stepping stone for the dog to get to their forever home.

Being a foster really isn't that much work for someone who already has a dog. I had two greyhounds for six years so I'm pretty used to the routine. A newly retired dog does require some extra patience since they tend to be high energy when they are first let out of their crates and they are pretty clueless on manners and rules, but that is all part of the adventure. Hardest part is the first night which I typically end up spending on the couch next to their crate. It keeps them quiet so we can all get some sleep. Most of them are fine on their own after that first long evening.

I have been fostering for two years and I think I am on my 10th foster. They are all different but yet in many ways they are very similar. My favorite ones are the returns. Dogs who, for one reason or another, didn't click with their first (or second) placement. They really deserve another chance at finding a good home. In fact, my favorite foster was a returned dog.

The success of the greyhound adoption program and our collective ability to continue to have greyhounds as pets is dependent on a continuous supply of new dogs coming up from the adoption kennels. Yes - as a community we could allow the dogs to go directly from hauler to the adopter's car with nothing more than a "good luck", but the intermediary step of a foster home significantly increases the probability of a successful adoption. I would encourage all greyhound lovers to consider fostering - even if just a dog or two a year so the DC area continues to have the option of quality greyhound place-

ments. It is such an easy thing to do but it can have a tremendous impact on both the life of the dog and on the adopter.

FOSTER COWBOY: Coming in On the Home Stretch of Heartworm Treatment

By Nichole Zurgable

Thanks to the generous financial support of our greyhound community, Cowboy has finished his three month heartworm treatment program. He has been a real trooper throughout the treatment program. Cowboy's next and hopefully final veterinary appointment will be in mid-April to test him for heartworms. If all goes well, Cowboy will be able to live the life of a happy two year old retired greyhound.

Cowboy spent his first month in foster care taking daily doses of prednisone, doxycycline and flagyl as preparatory medications to boost his immune system and weaken the heartworms before the start of the actual heartworm treatment. In the second month Cowboy received the first of three deep intramuscular injections of melarsomine - an arsenic based compound - the only compound that can kill the heartworms in his blood stream. He continued with the prednisone, doxycycline and flagyl medications with tramadol for pain after the injection. In the third month, Cowboy received the second and third injections 24 hours apart, with the same post injection medications. These last two injections were more painful for him, but with the tramadol Cowboy got some relief.

Throughout this treatment regime, Cowboy has remained a sweetheart of a greyhound. He definitely has a playful side but due to the treatment regime, he has had to remain quiet. Cowboy has taken all of the medications and physical restrictions in stride. In his foster home he has been living with the resident greyhounds and hasn't shown any aggression toward them. He has also met cats at the vet during his visits and just gives the cats a glance as he walks on by. He is a smart boy and listens rather well. He also is puppyish...and rightly so as he just turned 2 years old in January.

Fingers crossed that in mid April Cowboy will have a clean bill of health and can enjoy romping in the backyard and roaching in the fresh Spring grass!

You can read Cowboy's complete diary week-by-week by clicking on the "Cowboy's Diary" link in the left sidebar at www.greyhoundwelfare.org.



LIVING WITH DOGS & CATS

By Cynthia Wilbur

First printed in *The Skinny* Winter 2010

Consider "Hope," aptly named but not by me. The bonding started when she climbed the headliner in my car on our way home from the haul. It continued as she bounced and smiled her way around the yard for the first time, and then gamely took on the steep kitchen steps to the house. Inside I lifted her front paw for a clip and discovered a co-operative dog and no dew claws (yay!). Katie, the happiest dog in the world, had died four months earlier and the household needed a crazy sunshine girl again. Hope had arrived. Monty and Dannie did the greeting dance with her and no one snarked. And then Audrey the cat made her operatic entrance.

There's been a long line, five years worth, of foster greyhounds passing through my home and three greyhounds of my own before Hope. Katie and Monty were cat comatose — Katie stepping over Mikey the cat on her first entrance to the house as if he were a bump on the rug. Monty had lived with cats in his first home, and now slept with them in mine. There have been foster dogs over the years with a little too much interest in kitties but still distractible and workable, and a few who were fearful of the cats. Dannie was more of a challenge, but her interest in the kitties was play not prey. She'll still race a cat down the hall some mornings but is safe with them inside. Hope was very different. She lunged on the lead whenever she saw the cat and Audrey would zip under the baby gate to safety. Hope's eyes followed and she held her position. She was going to take a lot more patience and work to live well with cats.

Cat training is pretty straightforward: A plastic muzzle (never a cloth muzzle) and a short lead when out of the crate keeps everyone safe. Then distract the dog when she looks at the cat, mark the behavior (clicker or 'good girl') when she looks away, and reward with high value treats. Since behaviors that are reinforced will be repeated, it's important not to allow a situation where the dog could chase the kitty and be rewarded by the thrill of the chase. But that's exactly what happened in Month 3 with Hope and Audrey. I let my guard down thinking Audrey was in the cellar patrolling for mice when Hope was out of the crate before dinner. I hadn't bothered to close the baby gate to the kitchen and I heard the scuffle of claws trying to gain traction on the floor. By the time I turned around they were gone. Hope had Audrey trapped behind the toilet. Even wearing a muzzle, a dog can pick up toys or kitty, so we were relieved that no one was hurt. Muzzles also offer some protection from those needle-like cat claws.

After more than six months, with controls and training and vigilance, Hope learned to ignore the cat in most situations. I don't think I'll ever find her curled up with the cat, but they can be in the same room safely. Audrey can run into the room yowling and Hope barely lifts her head. Until the recent holidays, I still gated Hope on one level when I left the house. But after 14 months I think we're safe, and she now has run of the house when I'm gone.

There are still situations with cats and greys that will always need to be monitored, even with the most cat-comatose or well-trained grey.

Danger Zones

Outdoors: Greyhounds instinctively follow movement. Most greys will chase and could easily kill any small animal running in the yard, even the same cats that they live with indoors.

At the door to the outside: This is a transition zone where dogs may still be in prey mode from a heightened state of excitement in the yard. If the cat is at the door, warn her away or muzzle the dogs before entering.

Inside when dogs are over excited from playing with toys: I remove my kitty from the room if the dogs are having a wild stuffy tossing party. Any situation where the dogs are over-stimulated brings with it the possibility of 'playing' with and hurting a cat.

In your arms: Holding a kitty above a dog's head is especially dangerous in the beginning. Many dogs who would ignore a cat on the floor will jump up for the cat in your arms.

After the honeymoon: Some greys will ignore or show little interest in cats for the first few months in a new home. Left unsupervised too early (before six months) could result in disaster. Crate or gate the dog until you're willing to bet your cat's life on the dog, because that's exactly what you're doing.

YOUR CATS & GREYS

"This is a picture of Cookie (adopted from GW in July 2013) with Maine Coon Topaz. Topaz is our newest cat; we got her in March 2014 after we had to put down one of our other beloved felines. The day she came into the house, she ran right over to Cookie to greet her and Cookie took one look at her and ran upstairs! She knew it wasn't the same cat that USED to live here and was scared! Now they are BFFs. Topaz ADORES Cookie and has to be with her all the time. She rubs herself on Cookie and sleeps near her – or next to her – as you can see. If Cookie goes out back, Topaz runs to the door and waits for her to come back in! My other Maine Coon, Brownie, also likes Cookie, but not so much that he insists on being near her all the time."

Claire Ruben



"Here are a few pictures of our cat Riley with our best guy Cooper, racing name Evan Almighty. Unfortunately Cooper passed away this past summer from Cushing's disease but he and Riley were good friends and Riley was bereft after he passed away. Every week Riley would groom Cooper's eyebrows - guess Cooper had a standing appointment! I never got a picture of that but they used to share the guest room bed quite often. Cooper's dates are April 24, 2006 to July 29, 2014

Noel Foley



Zachy the dog and Zoe the cat belong to Barbara Schmidt and Lucy Kon



"Kitty Monica's first glimpse at Apple's 'roach'. Taken 6 months after Apple downloaded herself into our hearts"

Deborah Alban



"This is Elisa, with my cat Jack, sharing a sunbeam. These two were best friends and are often found snuggling, especially when there is a nap involved."

Fawn Friedman



"Ripley and Nemo hanging out"

Matthew Gever



"I'm sending a few pictures of my GW hound, Banjo (racing name Skiddy Banjo), with my 10 month old kitten Cosette. My favorite picture is the one where they are both on my Mom's lap. (Her name is Ellis Strickler.)"

Betsy Strickler



"I have attached a picture of Nikko with her cat associate Mercurio. Generally speaking, our dog and cats are content to leave each other alone. Mercurio, however, doesn't mind getting into the occasional nap battle with Nikko which is where you get this shot that was taken during a heat wave we had last year."

Cameron McCurry

"Here's our gentle greyhound Milo (mee-low) and his ambush predator brother, Ajax"

Stephen Johnson



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The Skinny on Greyhound Welfare is a publication of Greyhound Welfare, Inc. Greyhound Welfare is a placement group for retired racing greyhounds. The group makes placements in the metropolitan Washington D.C area (Maryland, Virginia and DC). Greyhound Welfare is a 100% foster home group, which means that all our greyhounds live in real homes until they are placed. This helps us teach the dogs about their new world, and learn more about the individual dogs. Knowing our dogs well helps us greatly with our placement success.

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Jane Shivan, MANAGING EDITOR
Joanna Barnum, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Additional contributions by Greyhound Welfare adopters and friends.

To submit story and photo ideas, please send an email to newsletter@greyhoundwelfare.org.

To inquire about adopting a retired racing greyhound or volunteering with Greyhound Welfare, please visit our website at www.greyhoundwelfare.org.

SVELTE & SKINNY

Written by Jane Shivan/

Illustrated by Joanna Barnum

