



TRAVELS WITH SANDY

By SandyPants with help from her mom Nicole Leamer

The Skinny caught up with the elegant Sandy's Dream (whelped 11/4/2007, gotcha day 9/1/2012) and her family to talk about bratwurst, helicopters, mice, and living in Germany.

What kinds of things did you need to do to get ready for this trip – you went for two whole years?

We flew to Germany in 2013, and spent two years in the heart of farm and forest land in the village of Markt Lehrberg in Bavaria. There's a lot of planning needed to travel with a pet – the best resources for us were the Army veterinarians. We had to pay close attention (and time things right) to get the right vaccinations, titers, paperwork, and USDA clearance. Rabies is the biggest factor in terms of entry requirements when you take a pet to another country. The USDA APHIS site (US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) is very helpful. We bought the largest commercially available crate (it must be hard plastic) from PetsMart to ensure our tall girl could fully stand up in it. IATA sets the transport requirements for live animals, and we figured it's better to have a 'too big' crate than too small. Despite filling it with lovely soft blankets and treats, Sandy was never fooled and would never go in it willingly. *(Continued on p. 2)*



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SAVE THE DATE

Our Very Own Greyhound Welfare Picnic

Saturday, September 17th at the Cabin John Park Group Picnic Area, Rockville, MD

Plan to bring your greyhound to our annual picnic, bigger and better than ever!

The Grapehound Wine Tour

July 21st through July 24th in the Finger Lakes (Seneca Lake, NY)

You'll run into other GW folks as well as greyhound lovers from the entire Northeast at this annual Summer event. More information at www.grapehounds.com

Eat Out for Greyhound Welfare

Tuesday, August 16 at the Dogfish Head Ale House in Fairfax, VA

Take the day off and bring your friends. Lots of friends. Dogfish Head Ale House will donate 15% of the entire day's proceeds to Greyhound Welfare.

Reach The Beach

October 6th through October 8th in Dewey, DE

An annual gathering of greyhounds and friends at the beach.



(Travels With Sandy, Continued from p. 1)

I liked the part where I got to sleep on the floor with you before we left – not sure why you always got the sleeping bag and I had the blankets. Much better than furniture. It was no fun being stuck in that crate for hours, even after we landed – what's a girl supposed to do?

How did Germans react to Sandy?

I will say this – if you take a greyhound on a plane, or traveling around Europe, you will get lots of looks and comments! Greyhound in German is 'Windhund' – wind dog. We never saw another one while we were in Germany, though people often say galgo, a smaller Spanish hunting dog they are more familiar with. Compared to the commonly encountered German Shepherds and Dachshunds, our big white and brindle elegant lady definitely stood out!

We learned that German dogs are expected to be extremely well-behaved and trained. Thus, dogs often accompany owners to restaurants, on walks, to the grocery store, etc. and are never on the leash. People sometimes looked askance at us – I'm assuming they were thinking my poor greyhound was on a leash because she must not be well-trained, not knowing the "don't let a greyhound off the leash unless it's fenced" rule. Oh well, safety first.

I deserved all the compliments...one of my favorite trips was to Lake Como – OK, I know it's Italy not Germany, but that fancy elegant and luxurious crowd was my kind of party. The countryside was good, we went on some great walks. I liked the mice.

What difference did it make to both of you to share this experience together?

Sandy definitely bonded more closely with us – the only constant in her life was us. I think she was a great ambassador for the breed. So many people complimented our elegant and pretty dog! I learned she was more resilient than I gave her credit for, and that she loved the quietness of the German countryside and the myriad village paths we walked. Germans love to walk, and they love dogs, and it's a great country to combine both. Having Sandy also was an ice breaker to meeting other friendly dog owners. On the flip side, whenever we traveled and couldn't bring Sandy, I always felt very guilty leaving her behind, and we traveled less than we would have if we didn't have her.

I took you on hills, trails, and farm paths – you wouldn't have done that much on your own. And don't forget the dog park we found. I think it was the only one in the whole of Germany. I might not like children and garage doors very much, but I didn't mind the helicopters hovering above the dog park! And I liked the mice.

OK, I have to ask, what about the mice?

Around the giant farm near our village, during a few weeks a year the mice would be out. When we walked Sandy along the paths along the edge of the farm, she would desperately try to hunt these mice by pouncing! If you've ever seen videos of foxes pouncing, you know what I'm talking about! Hilarious and funny, so glad we got a harness and extra-long training lead enabling her to get her 'hop' on!

I liked die Mäuse!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Greyhounds & Prison Inmates, A Healing Journey By Barbara Hansen

It's happening throughout the USA. Prison inmates and retired racing greyhounds - both frequently never experiencing unconditional love - are paired together typically for a 10-12 week greyhound training program. Inmates are specially chosen based on good behavior for the training program, and receive training in greyhound obedience, health & grooming, and behavior and socialization. The retired racing greyhound, with no training and under socialized, is typically assigned to two inmates who work with the greyhound as a team. In some programs the greyhound lives with the assigned inmates 24/7. In other programs the greyhound has his/her own crate in a dog dormitory, and spends extended periods of time daily with the assigned inmates for training, grooming, exercise and socialization. The win-win outcome - inmates learn patience, compassion, responsibility and achievement - greyhounds learn love, affection and social skills.

Greyhound Welfare has started working with the National Greyhound Foundation (NGF) and the 2nd Chance at Life prison dog program. The NGF and 2nd Chance at Life have developed a ten-week greyhound training and socialization program that relieves inmate boredom, provides inmates with a sense of achievement and increases greyhound placements in to adoptive homes.

Greyhound Welfare has received 11 dogs from NGF - 4 dogs in March 2016 and 7 dogs in May 2016. Each dog arrived with the training guide, an 8-week and 10-week dog assessment report, and heartfelt, personally written letters from the dog's assigned "prison moms".



Rayne, one of the hounds received through the National Greyhound Foundation and 2nd Chance at Life program.

The dogs were in good weight, healthy and well groomed. Greyhound Welfare's foster homes reported that each dog did know basic commands, stairs and was fairly well socialized. The March 2016 prison dogs were adopted promptly and have been settling in to their new adoptive homes. The May 2016 prison dogs will be available for adoption to approved adopters on June 3, 2016.

For foster parents and adopters who receive these prison dogs, know that you haven't just helped a greyhound retire, but you have given prison inmates a sense of humanity. If you have adopted one of these prison dogs, the prison inmates would greatly appreciate knowing how your greyhound is doing. You can send e-mail updates about your prison dog to president@greyhoundwelfare.org. After removing personal information, your update will be forwarded to NGF.

Thank you for your support of this win-win program.
Barbara Hansen
President
Greyhound Welfare, Inc.

OH SPOTLIGHT: BARK! Kentlands, Gaithersburg, MD By Lucy Kon & Barbara Schmidt

Third Saturday of the month from 11-1

Greyhound Welfare hosts a well-attended open house at Bark! in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This meet and greet event for greyhounds and their friends is held the third Saturday of the month from 11am to 1pm. We usually have really great attendance by both foster dogs and ambassadogs (known as 'Floor Models') at this location. It's not unusual to have eight, ten, or even more dogs present. They enjoy each other's company, and love all the attention. We try to set up outside as often as possible because then we get loads of shoppers who stop by to pet the pups and learn more about greyhounds. Of course, the greyhounds always work their magic and we often turn people who are merely 'interested' into potential adopters. Greyhound Welfare has had many applications submitted from people who came to visit us at this location. Thanks to all the wonderful greyhound owners and volunteers who come to this OH to help out...we can't do it without you!



IT'S THE SATURDAY PLAYGROUP

By Kathy Owens

If you and your greyhounds are early risers, this is your special invitation to head to the Ridge Road Recreational Park dog park in Germantown, Maryland on Saturday mornings. Our playgroup meets at dawn – we get there early because greyhound owners are the only ones crazy enough to come at that hour so we have the park to ourselves. Your greyhound (no fosters, please, and be sure your greyhound wears a muzzle) will get to run with about a dozen regular visitors, though we have had as many as twenty. And they may meet some honorary greyhounds (two miniature dachshunds that we call teacup greyhounds).



The original members of this playgroup met each other at the Potomac Horse Barn when it was open to greyhounds. After access to the horse barn was closed to them, they searched for a different venue for the greys to run and socialize. The Ridge Road dog park was chosen because it has wide open space for the dogs to run. Members of the original group invited others as they met them and the group has now grown to about fifteen people and their greys. Not everyone attends regularly, but there is a core group of people and hounds who show up whether it's light rain or sun, summer or winter, even when the park is covered with snow. The greys enjoy seeing each other. They greet each other at the gate, run and chase anyone who runs, chase together when the occasional squawker is used, and then stand around getting petted by humans. The humans also enjoy the socialization, and some of us have arranged get-togethers outside of the playgroup. We also join each other as a group at Dewey, Greyhounds in Gettysburg, and Grapehounds since the dogs all know each other too!

What do the greyhounds think of all this?



"I keep my momma and daddy guessing. They always wonder how I know when Saturday rolls around and it's time to go to playgroup!"



"I like playgroup because I get to see all my friends and run and chase with them!"



"I like playgroup because there is always a human around to give me pets and ear scratches!"

WHO ADOPTED WHOM? The Story of Camden By Jeff Barber

When Camden's family returned him in 2015, Greyhound Welfare knew it had something more than a typical return on its hands. At age 13 and a half, Camden was a senior citizen.

And Greyhound Welfare realized it wouldn't be easy to find an adopter willing to take on the special needs of an aging dog and deal with the heartbreak of losing him in much too short a time.

That's when Kathy Pelech stepped in. Kathy has been a long-time foster parent for Greyhound Welfare, taking in more than 13 hounds, some of whom were returns. As part of her volunteer work with the organization, Kathy also sees emails from families needing to return their dogs and when the email about Camden arrived, *(Continued on p. 5)*

(Who Adopted Whom, Continued from p. 4) she felt that she couldn't just stand by and hope for the best. "His family had some changes in their lives and had to give him up and I kept thinking how sad it was that he was probably in the last year of his life," she said. "I talked with my husband and asked if we could foster Camden, and we both knew when we agreed to take him, that he wasn't going to leave, so we decided to adopt him."



That was eight months ago and Kathy said that not only is Camden "as healthy as a horse," he also has seemed to blossom in his new surroundings. "Adopting a dog that much older is definitely different," Kathy said. "Some things are easier and some things are harder."

Kathy said Camden didn't need the transition period that younger dogs off the track do. "He had lived with a family and already understood the boundaries of a home. He also came with a number of commands that he knew, except for 'in your bed,' which he either never learned or had forgotten."

"We also found with Camden that you won't be able to model an older dog into what you want and you have to be more flexible. They basically come as a complete package and you're there to be their caretaker." And walks are different, she said, requiring more patience and time. "It's kind of like walking with an 85-year-old man."

Camden also needs more frequent bathroom breaks than a younger dog, but Kathy, who works from home, said she can easily accommodate his schedule.

Shortly after arriving at the Pelech's, Camden also started to bark early in the mornings. "We talked with our vet and determined that he might be confused and was reacting by barking." While barking by a young dog is best dealt with by ignoring it, Kathy said she realized she had to handle Camden's situation differently. "We began to leave the lights on, made sure he was comfortable and put him on low-level pain meds. We had to try to figure out what was going on in his head and make him more at ease."

It worked and Camden is no longer providing the Pelech's with 4 a.m. wakeup calls.

But Camden is also quieter than younger greyhounds and Kathy said, "he is a more relaxing dog to have around the house."

The Pelech's have Mandalay, an 8-year-old male greyhound, who's been with them for about four years. And Kathy said Camden has already had an effect on Mandalay. "Despite outward appearances that he really doesn't like other dogs, Mandalay has done much better with Camden in the house – he's less needy and has calmed down a bit."

And the longer the Pelech's have had Camden, the more his personality has emerged. "He seems really happy now. When he first came to us if you tried to pet him, he would cower," Kathy said.

"We worked with him slowly, approaching him only when he wanted to be approached. Now, he comes running in from the back yard, especially when it's dinnertime and is much more engaged. He just kind of perked up and I didn't expect his personality would be what it is. We've seen a lot of positive changes. He's kind of a goofy guy."

"I'm glad I took in a senior. It definitely requires a different set of skills and a different focus – it doesn't require as much energy, but it does require patience to handle the more special needs and given that he is over 14, I know his time is going to come."

But Kathy said one of the big rewards of taking in Camden is "knowing" that he is happy in what may be the last year of his life. "I couldn't bear the idea of this dog being ignored just because he was old. We do that too much with people in our country."



"There is a lot of value and personal satisfaction in taking in a senior," Kathy said, adding that while they understood when they adopted him that he would likely be gone in a year and half and they would be "heart broken," they could take comfort in knowing was loved and cared for.

"It's a different kind of joy you get out of taking in an older dog."

GREYT BITES: Fruit Parfait

By Carling Uhler with help from Fuzzy

A fun sweet treat that you can even share with your pup!

Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain, non-fat yogurt
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
1 cup mixed fruit or fruit of your choice (NO raisins, grapes, cherries – and remove seeds, leaves, pits, etc.)

Directions:

Mix all ingredients in a bowl or blender OR put the yogurt down first and top with fruit. Sprinkle rolled oats or dog-safe granola on top for a fun addition. Yogurt/fruit mixture can last up to seven days in the fridge, or freeze for a "pupsicle" treat.

Note:

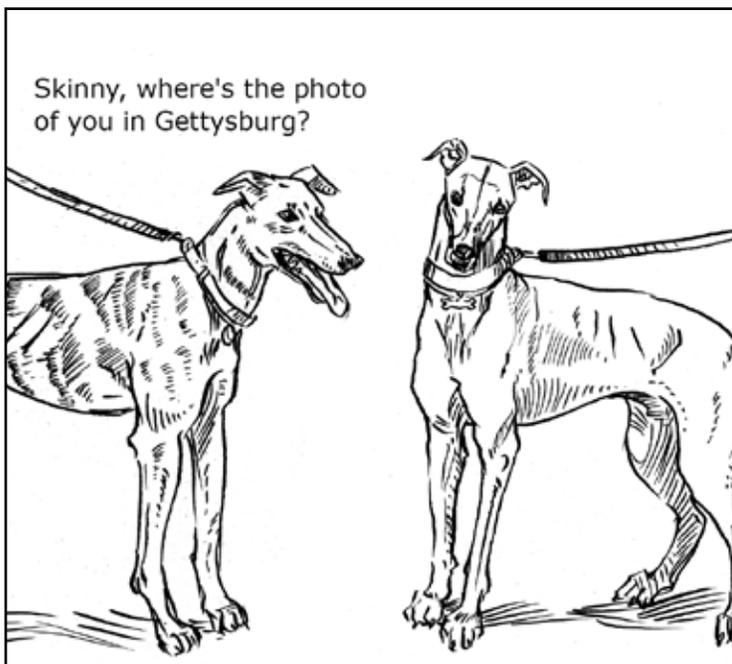
Make sure if you give your hound this treat that you don't overfeed them during regular meals.



SVELTE & SKINNY

Written by Jane Shivnan/

Illustrated by Joanna Barnum



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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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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.

