



- Winter 2009-2010 -

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Ruth



Hero

# The Official GreySave Newsletter

# Scoop

374+ dogs saved

Greyhound Adoptions

(866) Grey-Save

[www.greysave.org](http://www.greysave.org)

### *Message from the GreySave Board* by Cathy Kiburtz


Year end always brings a few surprises. This year was no exception. In 2008 after we thought we had the last grey cozy in their foster homes we brought in 2 greys from Caliente with large open wounds. In 2009, on Christmas day, Tristan, a broken hock boy from Tucson, came in on a haul en-route to Northern CA. The final surprise came on New Year's Eve when 8 year old Carrie came in from an out of state adopter who after she contacted us just left her grey in her parent's backyard.

Except for a September lull this year was very busy. We brought in 138 new dogs and adopted out 143, including the 7 GreySave hounds returned by adopters that could no longer keep them. I think someone said the economy was bad, especially in California! Sadly we had two greys die before they found their Forever Homes. One died during hock surgery and the other from a deadly strain of pneumonia. In 2009, our greyhounds came from several tracks as the Caliente supply of greyhounds dwindled. Sixty five came from Caliente, 54 from Tucson, 6 from Guam and 4 from Phoenix. Our other greys came from off track locations. Five older greys came to be re-homed from out of the area adoption groups. Two came from mid-west dog farms via Half Way Home for Greyhound's. Misty, our little survivor, came to us from the Baldwin Park shelter where they believed she escaped from a backyard breeder after having a litter of pups. Amazingly she also had a 2 year old chronic and unrepaired broken hock. Annie was found running loose in Pomona. Just under 10% of our greyhounds came to us with either a broken hock or other severe medical issues. We are so thankful that they made it to us and that the other 90% came to us healthy!

We are guessing that 2010 will be another year of challenges as the economy continues to impact not only people's finances but also the race tracks. In December, several tracks closed including Phoenix. A large number of the Phoenix greys moved east to other race tracks. Another group moved to Tucson and displaced the slower greys. Some greys went back to or stayed on the dog farms around Phoenix and Tucson. Though we don't know how many, but a significant number of the Phoenix and Tucson greys moved to Caliente and more are going down over the next months. As you would guess GreySave's prime concern continues to be the greys at Caliente and that they get back to the US and into loving homes when they are done racing. The best way to do that is to keep growing GreySave, expand the volunteer base, find new greyhound devotees and get the message out about how great greyhounds are as companions.

In 2010 we are planning two big Social events. The Race to the Park in May and a chili themed fall event in October. We would also like to add more Meet & Greet locations and an increased number of "local events". Local events might be evening or weekend walks; greyhound gatherings at local parks; play days; nail clipping and/or dental days; or other events that bring groups of adopters and friends together to build up their local community of greyhounds. We hope to expand our ranks of Adoption Representatives, Foster Homes and Meet and Greet volunteers as our area of adoptions grows. If you are interested in setting up a Meet & Greet; becoming a Foster Home or an Adoption Representative; or starting a local events group just contact one of our Board members and let them know.

**So what can you do to help?** A seasoned volunteer might want to start up a Meet and Greet; a local social and event group; or maybe become an Adoption Representative or Foster Home. Others may want to start by volunteering at one of the big socials or at a Homecoming. Others may want to pass out business cards when walking or spread the word by telling everyone they meet about how great greyhounds are as pets! Shoppers could sign up for a Ralphs Reward Card and use it when they shop or access Amazon.com through the GreySave website, as Amazon donates to us a % of sales. If you are cleaning out your house or garage you could give serviceable used items to be sold at the garage sales or on e-Bay. Or you could sell items on eBay yourself and donate a portion to Grey-Save. Or if you like a more monetary approach you could become a GreySave financial Benefactor and/or sponsor a broken leg greyhound.

Most importantly, for GreySave and all the hounds, just be happy and enjoy your volunteer experience! We are an all volunteer group, we make mistakes, we have rough days, bad logistics days, and unexpected things happen to our dogs and to our volunteers but the thing that holds us together and makes us grow is our positively greyt attitude. 

## Introducing Cats and Dogs by Mark Lembo

**“Human sacrifice, dogs and cats living together... mass hysteria! “**

-Bill Murray, as Dr. Peter Venkman, in *Ghostbusters*

OK, there has been no human sacrifice, it's only one dog and one cat living together, and there has been no mass hysteria. But there could have been.

After living seventeen years (in three states) with a rescued Manx cat, followed closely by three and a half years with a rescued German Shepherd, it seemed like rescuing both a dog and a cat could be an interesting adventure. The cat decision was easy; we knew it would be a Siamese. For the dog, we did our research and read up on greyhounds, as well as introducing cats to dogs, and dogs to cats.



Based on what we learned, we created an outline for their first week together that included step-by-step instructions, conditions and locations for initial meetings, scheduled times for dog walks, feedings and free access for the cat. We bought a baby gate, and determined where to segregate the cat's food, water and litter box. We had muzzled and un-muzzled introductions planned. We had feeding on opposite sides of a closed door penciled in. We figured on making an initial assessment after the first day, followed by two or three days of controlled interactions and close observation.

The detailed, written plan went right out the window after the first day – but in a good way!

< Tip #1: Be prepared, don't try to wing it. There is a ton of good information out there – see below. Read up. Create a plan.>

Gatsby, a one year-old, eleven pound, male Snowshoe Siamese, arrived from the Lange Foundation on October 21<sup>st</sup>. He hopped out of his carrier, looked around and seemed to conclude that he could accept the new surroundings. While looking about the house, he sensed the presence of another animal, but she had been gone for almost a month. Upon realizing he had the house to himself, he settled in rather quickly – no hiding under the bed or in a dark corner. As a matter of fact, he hopped into bed about twenty minutes after 'lights out,' and staked his claim.

< Tip #2: Make sure the cat is confident and somewhat independent. If adopting a new cat, work with the rescue organization and detail your plans and expectations. This communication is important when choosing a cat that will peacefully co-exist with your grey.>

After Gatsby settled in, Zelda (nee Monica), our beautiful, red, three year-old hound arrived on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the screening done at her Homecoming, she appeared to be 'cat tolerant,' if not completely indifferent. Upon seeing Gatsby, she seemed to want to simply ignore him. For the first few days, she would not look directly at him – maybe hoping he would go away(?). Gatsby, though he showed some apprehension, never hissed, spit or took a swipe at Zelda. After their first introduction, with Zelda muzzled and leashed, we quickly progressed to un-muzzled and leashed, and then to having both free to move about the house. The expected three days of planned, controlled introductions was compressed to a day and a half. As a matter of fact, they were left alone – with the cat free to roam and the dog sequestered in the master bedroom by the baby gate - for three hours on the third day.



<Tip #3: A baby gate set a few inches off the ground gives the cat an escape route underneath, but the dog is unlikely to get past. Also, corridors at right angles make it nearly impossible for the dog to have enough room to jump over the gate. (Slippery hardwood floors help, too!)

After about four days, both Gatsby and Zelda were eating chicken from my hands while they stood side by side. For safety's sake, we continued to use the baby gate for another week to provide the cat with a safe haven. After three weeks, the baby gate has been retired. Zelda still seems a little unsure what Gatsby is all about, while he has been confident enough to approach Zelda, sniff around her and drink from her water bowl. He wants to interact, but she isn't quite ready for that – yet.


(Continued on page 3)

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Needless to say, we count our blessings daily. Avoiding all the drama that can occur when introducing a dog to a cat, has allowed us to get to know each of our new pets better and much faster. This was all possible thanks to the expert matching skills utilized by GreySave, their cat tolerance testing and great fostering program, a little planning on our part, and most importantly, two extraordinary pets.



### **Plan for the worst and hope for the best.**

- Communicate with your adoption organizations. Let them know your plans and your expectations for the cat, the dog, and the two of them together.
- Do your research; there is a ton of good information out there.
  - *Introducing Dogs and Cats*, PETCO website, Basic Canine Education section
  - *Introducing Dogs and Cats*, Author unknown, from the Pasadena Humane Society
  - *Greyhounds – A Complete Owner’s Guide*, Barron’s
  - *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*, Lee Livingood
  - *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Cynthia A. Branigan
  - Your GreySave Welcome packet and web site
- Have a plan.
- Be prepared. Get the tools you need to make it work.
- Be flexible. More than likely, things will not go as planned! 

### **Do You like going to the Dentist?**

No? Neither does your dog. Good dental hygiene is as important to your fur-kids and it is to you. And don’t think that the Vet’s dental bill is going to be cheaper than yours either. In addition, the dog will likely have to be “put under” for dental work, and we all know what the risk is there. So, how can we keep our dogs away from the doggy dentist? The following are portions of some articles from one of GreySave’s affiliates, *Houndstooth Pet Dental* (<http://houndstoothpetdental.com>). There is not room here for everything, so please see the website.

“Pet owners frequently confide that they don’t have any idea what their pet’s teeth and gums should look like or how to properly care for them. We have worked with thousands of pets and have seen all levels of dental disease. You, however, have only your own pet’s teeth to look at, with nothing to compare. Perhaps you’ve been told to brush your pet’s teeth but haven’t been shown how. You may be befuddled by the abundance of dental products available-what works & why? Do you know when you need to take your pet to a dental specialist? Does diet make a difference?”

**-Food:** “When we are told not to feed our dogs & cats people food, what they really should say is don’t feed species inappropriate food. Processed foods like deli meat, pasta, breads, tortillas, french fries & that 99 cent special meal are species inappropriate.” See the website for what is appropriate and what to look for in pet foods. Good dental health starts with good foods and the right chew toys.

#### **-Why should I clean my pet’s teeth?**

Just like humans, dogs and cats build plaque and calculus (tartar) on their teeth. These substances are often the cause of gingivitis, bad breath, tooth loss and eating difficulties. Plaque & calculus harbor bacteria that can contribute to other local & systemic diseases.

#### **-Other sites to check out:**

<http://dogs.about.com/od/dogandpuppyhealth/qt/dentalcare.htm> / <http://www.dog.com/dog-articles/dog-dental-care/1873/>  
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+1653&aid=384> / <http://www.natural-dog-health-remedies.com/canine-dental-care.html>

### **O’ Brother (or Sister), Where Art Thou?** By Linda O’Toole

Perhaps just around the corner!

Unlike other breeds of dogs or cats that are only with their littermates for the first 6 or 8 weeks of their lives, Racing Greyhound litters are raised together for the first 12 months. If we believe in the dog years theory, one human year equals seven to a dog, that’s 7 years together! It stands to reason; they would not easily forget each other. After those first twelve months, it’s time to have formal race training. Many litters are fortunate enough to stay together until they start actually racing, many go their separate ways. More often than not, when littermates have the opportunity to reunite, it is a joyous and occasionally raucous occasion. GreySave has been rewarded with the opportunity to bring in 72 littermates (34 sets) and one mother and daughter. If you see your hound’s GreySave name on the below list, we can try to put you in contact with each other. We are also hoping to have a reunion romp area at the spring “Race to the Park” picnic. Keep you eyes open for further details.

#### **In no particular order:**

- |                            |                        |                         |                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. April Ann, Hero, Count  | 10. Duke, Pressman     | 20. Zion, Elly Mae      | 30. Kichi, Cairns          |
| 2. Kismet, Karma, Precious | 11. Thunder, Chinook   | 21. Cinnamon, Dagwood   | 31. Henry, Berkeley        |
| 3. Ty, Casanova            | 12. Brooke, Stormy     | 22. Quebec, Alice       | 32. Juniper, Usagi         |
| 4. Bavaria, Hunter, Olive  | 13. Cheri, Sugar       | 23. Ralph, Elko         | 33. Dublin, Daisy          |
| 5. Pisces, QT, Frosty      | 14. Sundowner, Cloudy  | 24. Yosemite, Carson    | 34. Monty, Stinger.        |
| 6. Maui, Brussels          | 15. Jamaica, Ricky     | 25. Quigley, Winnemucca |                            |
| 7. Cupid, Connie           | 16. Ann Arbor, Oak     | 26. Princeton, Rocky    | - Becky (mother) and Devka |
| 8. Adolpho, Freckles       | 17. Rushmore, Walker   | 27. Hudson, Smith       | (daughter)                 |
| 9. Dewpoint, Daytona       | 18. Dogwood, Allegheny | 28. Quaker, Mary        |                            |
|                            | 19. Carolina, Ginger   | 29. Antonia, Brutus     |                            |

## Canine Good Citizen Certification *by Bonnie Jeffers*

Does your Greyhound love to go places with you and love to be petted? Do you enjoy taking your dog camping, to your kid's sports events, or have you considered taking your Greyhound to a school, hospital, or retirement home?

AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification often opens doors to opportunities such as these. Preparing for the CGC test is fun interaction between you and your dog that strengthens that bond, teaches your dog valuable social skills, and gives your dog mental stimulation.

Moreover, your Greyhound might already be well on his or her way toward gaining the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification. The track training your ex-racer received and the breed's temperament often gives your Greyhound a head start toward certification. If you have done some basic obedience training and participated in Meet and Greets, you've also already been preparing your dog for certification.


Certified AKC Evaluator Priscilla O'Malley of Liebe Aire Acres conducts testing at the GreySave Picnic each May. By spending only a few minutes each day, you could have your dog ready for the test this May. Here's how to get started.

Go to <http://www.greysave.org/news607.php#8>; that's the place on the GreySave website where you'll find a previous newsletter article on "My Dog Became a Canine Good Citizen at the "Race to the Park" – Yours Can Too!" It spells out exactly what happens at the CGC test. I'm beginning work with my newest Greyhound, Diana. We hope to pass the test in May. Why don't you join us. Here's how to get started.

**1) Start with skills your dog already knows.** Continue to look for opportunities to use, and thus reinforce, those skills. For example, Diana's already great with meeting people and most other dogs. I'll continue to encourage people we meet on walks and at Meet & Greets to pet her and give her treats. She could use a little work when we're around excited dogs, so I'll also look for opportunities to expose her to excited dogs. When we encounter one, I'll give her treats and practice her "watch me" and "sit" commands to distract her from the excited dog and to teach her appropriate responses when she is in that situation.

**2) Next, work on skills that are not part of your dog's skill set, but should be easy to learn.** Household noises don't bother Diana, so we'll just practice with a few new sounds, like a car horn, whistles, and popping balloons. I'll start with them in a distance so I don't scare her, and slowly bring them closer while giving her lots of rewards. This can be part of my everyday routine, for example, I often encounter opportunities for exploring unique sounds when working around the house or on a walk.

**3) Finally, work on skills that will be harder for your dog to learn.** Diana's harder lessons will definitely be "stay" and "come." We're already practicing short "wait" or "stay" commands at doorways and before getting in or out of the car. I recently learned a fun way to teach the "come" command. Grab some yummy treats, run into the next room, and call "[dog's name] come." Turn this into a fun game of "hide and seek" rewarding the dog as soon as he finds you.

As you can see, preparing for the CGC test truly can be fun for both you and your dog. It strengthens the bond between you two, teaches your dog valuable social skills, and gives your dog mental stimulation. Join me this winter in preparing for the CGC test at the GreySave Picnic. May is just around the corner, so start today. 

## GreySave Adoptions - since July 2009

<u>Dog</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Location</u>
Rebel	Santa Anna	Argos	Hollywood	Dodge	Long Beach
Spenser	Van Nuys	Cindy	Sunland	Josette	Palmdale
Sweetboy	Northridge	Marv	Wood Ranch	Freckles	Glendora
Cat	Claremont	Misty	Chino	Ella	San Pedro
Can Can	Chino	Dream	Yucca Valley	Taylor	Bakersfield
Trinidad	Burbank	Redwood	Placentia	Octavia	La Mirada
Cache	West LA	Fifer	Rancho Cuc.	Hanna	Long Beach
Chaska Bankroll	Burbank	Iowa	La Canada	Ty	Pasadena
Chinook	Corona	Rico	S. Pasadena	Monica	Arcadia
Madison	Elk Grove	Menlo	Highland	Phoebe	Chino
Reese	Long Beach	Odette	Pasadena	Count	Upland
Sadie	Duarte	Gloriann	Huntington Beach	Connie	Foothill Ranch
Aston	Azusa	Ursula	Van Nuys	Free	Los Angeles
Mindy	Alta Loma	Adolfo	Simi Valley	Kismet	Los Alamitos
Baci	Whittier	Jake	Simi Valley	Treasure	Sunland
Pressman	Sahuarita, AZ	Artie	Upland	April Ann	Westlake
Coco	West LA	Tucker	Corona	Devka	Redlands
Tina	Venice	Rainbow	Duarte	Elsie	Simi Valley
Prisim	Rancho Cuc.	Crystal	Glendale	Vanessa	Huntington Beach
Otto	Huntington Beach	Monty	Riverside	Rooby	Highland
Silvia	Trabuco Canyon	Casanova	West Hills		
Hollywood	Fontana	Guinevere	Studio City		
Rocky	Orange	Daytona	Chino		



- Carrie -  
I love moonlight walks,  
snuggling on the couch, and  
if you scratch behind my  
ears, I'll be yours forever.

### Greyhound pitfalls or How to get into trouble *FAST!*

By Cathy Kiburtz

Over the years of living with greyhounds, placing them in Forever Homes and getting calls about greyhound tragedies I have learned a few things that can quickly get greyhounds and their people in trouble, sometimes with dire consequences.

**Food** - Though not actually deadly but gas'ly, changing their food too quickly can be very bad and once you have done so you learn not to!

**Freedom too soon** - Giving your greyhound too much freedom to flex those long legs before you know how they will handle the new found freedom! This includes wild runs in the yard, Dog Park or other locations. There are many lurking pitfalls. If they are running alone they can damage their feet or legs since they are not used to running unfettered. In this new running environment, they can change directions too quickly, trip over rocks, walls, run into tennis nets, thorny bushes or even step into a gopher hole. None of these hazards were at the track so they don't recognize them. At the track they run in one direction on packed sand or dirt. Also, all track dogs are new to the game of running with "teeth exposed". When your grey starts to run with other greyhounds or other breeds of dogs everyone's teeth can become a problem. Some dogs, or breeds, play using their teeth and are just plain "mouthy". Greyhounds don't know this game! At the track and on the farms they almost always have a muzzle on, not because they are mean or dangerous, but because that is how it is plus their skin tears easily. Since they have never run or played with other dogs without a muzzle they never learned the proper use or not to use teeth during play! They can get themselves in trouble fast. That does not mean that they need a muzzle to run and play forever it just means that they need to learn how and how not to use their teeth.



**Overly enthusiastic welcomes** - You haven't seen a nasty and bloody mess until your greyhound is flinging blood on your walls! Remember their tails are LONG, can wave powerfully, and hit walls and tabletops. Next is a break in the skin and then "happy tail". Happy tail makes no one happy and is very hard to fix medically. Have you ever see a greyhound with part of a tail. Now you know why.

**Socialization** - Over time and with experience I have come to realize that what appears to be high prey behavior, especially on a leash, may be unbridled inquisitiveness or even fear! We have had dogs that test small pet tolerant only to go out in public and become what appears to be less than tolerant for other dogs on a leash, cats, squirrels and even birds! The question is how do you prevent or even mitigate this developing non-social behavior. Greyhounds come to us very naive. Think about what they have seen in their lives, certainly not a lure that jumps about, barks and nips at them! Some greys handle all the new sights and sounds with grace and poise others are just afraid and/or act badly themselves. So one of the biggest gifts you can give your foster or adoptee is to keep them safe when out on a leash. Control, as much as possible, their introductions to critters you meet while until you know all will be well. One bite while on a leash **will** change your greyhound's life forever.

**The great escape** - The most dangerous situation you can face is **underestimating** the speed and sometimes unpredictable nature of a greyhound. Greys are sight hounds. They are looking and sighting things constantly! If they see something that interests them -- their eyes and legs can kick in while their brain and ears take a holiday. Next thing -- they are OFF! I have been reminded of this unique greyhound quality more than once in the 12 years we have had greys. I have also been lucky enough not to have anything happen but heart stopping scares. The danger points seem to be when putting them in or taking them out of a vehicle or when coming and going through doors. No matter how well trained, they are a greyhound, have amazing speed, and can go unpredictable very quickly. You almost need to be somewhat paranoid, always take the extra step to secure them before you turn your back or release your hold on the leash. If they get away they are a like a speeding bullet and where they stop might not be what we had in mind.


**The naked greyhound** - Last but certainly not least or insignificant is that your greyhound should never be without their collar and tags! I know the clicking together of tags is annoying BUT a greyhound without tags is at great risk if they get out. For some sad reason probably half the greys that get loose don't have collars & tags! Put rubber bands around the tags to stop the clatter if you can't stand it or buy a tag pouch on line. Unfortunately a grey without tags is at significant risk out in the world. The only thing they will have going for them is luck and their charm which does not necessarily work for timid greys. 





Photo by Michael O'Toole

### A Greyhound Joke

Three race horses were bragging about their race averages.

"I won 5 out of 20 races," said the first horse.

"Oh yea! I won 15 out of my 30," said the second.

"Hah! I won 50 out of 60," said the third.

Hiding behind a hay bail, a greyhound was listening in on the conversation. He steps into view and says, "Well I won 99 out of 100 of my races."

The third horse looks at the second horse and says....

"WOW!.... A talking dog!"

*"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."*

-Will Rogers

See you in Solvang?

<http://www.solvanggreyhoundfest.org/>

<http://www.solvangusa.com/docs/SolvangWalkingMap.pdf>

### Be a GreySave Benefactor

As the number of greyhounds we save grows so do our costs. Despite the heroic efforts of our volunteers and veterinarians, and despite the fact that no one takes a dime in salary, GreySave's adoption fee only covers part of our costs. That's in part because a certain number of dogs we take in are sick or injured. GreySave only continues to function because of the over and above giving of wonderful folks like you. As a GreySave Benefactor, you will receive: everything from your name immortalized on our Benefactor Walk of Fame, free admission to our events, free raffle tickets, free spa treatments, to custom embroidered polo shirts and jackets. See our Benefactor page on the [website](#) (under the Help menu.) for the details.

Changed your email address?  
Still want to be on GreySave's email list?  
Please go to [www.greysave.org](http://www.greysave.org)  
And rejoin the list.



### -Wanted-

- Your greyt stories-
- Your greyt dog photos-
- Your greyt jokes-
- Your greyt input-

Send your "stuff" to Mike at  
[Racing-heritage@roadrunner.com](mailto:Racing-heritage@roadrunner.com)

### Rehome a Greyhound

By Mary Wedderburn, 2006

Brindle, black, fawn or white,  
All I ask is treat me right.  
I'll run for you, I'll do my best  
And just for you I'll beat the rest.

But when I'm injured, hurt or sore,  
Please don't ask for anymore.  
Give me a home, I'll be your friend,  
Ever faithful TO THE END.

Anybody who  
doesn't know  
what soap tastes  
like never  
washed a dog.

-Franklin P. Jones

### Racing Videos from Phoenix Greyhound Park

If you email **Drew Stewart** at Phoenix Greyhound Park and tell him your dog's racing name he will look and tell you if he has his/her races. (You can of course look them up for yourself and save him time) He said that he has most races back about 20 years. Just some of the older ones are on VHS. Drew's email address is [drewlstewart@gmail.com](mailto:drewlstewart@gmail.com). The cost is \$5.00 per race plus shipping, or 5 races for \$20.00 plus shipping (usually \$4.00). Note: These videos will still be available after the track closes, but not forever.

His address is:  
Phoenix Greyhound Park  
ATTN: Drew Stewart  
3801 E. Washington St  
Phoenix, AZ 85034

