

Offtrack Greyhound

A Publication of Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC)



VICTORY!

Thirty-five years ago, Greyhound Adoption Center started rescuing greyhounds from dire circumstances. There were many dogs in need. We couldn't save them all. But then you came out and rolled up your sleeves. You, our volunteers, our donors, our adopters, our staff, our friends, and our fellow rescue partners. You hosted fundraisers. You stuffed envelopes. You drove miles and miles and miles. You built a kennel from the ground up. You bathed thousands of dogs. You filled unending food dishes, went for thousands of walks, gave myriad ear scratches, and cleaned up truckloads of waste. You earned the trust of thousands of dogs and taught them the simple pleasures of being house pets. You provided beds, sofas, hugs,

and veterinary care. Together, we cheered as shy dogs became brave, and we cried when beloved friends crossed the rainbow bridge.

Together, we have made a difference. From a once growing racing industry, now there are very few tracks remaining in the United States. From an overwhelming number of

dogs needing help, now there are many rescue organizations poised and ready to take any greyhound in need. From a public that thought greyhounds could never make good house pets to you, our friends, who share with the world about their sweet furry greyhound family members.

YOU made it possible. YOU DID IT!



Changes

You and we knew this day would come. From Day 1, we all hoped and wanted it to come. Because it would mean that we accomplished what we set out to do.

After three-plus decades of rescuing greyhounds from tracks around the world, healing the many that came to us with injuries, caring for all of them, and placing several thousand of these gorgeous dogs into loving homes, Greyhound Adoption Center is about to write a new chapter.

Costs are rising. Needs are changing. GAC has a comfortable reserve, but declining donations and rising costs of labor, food, and supplies erode that reserve each year. Thankfully, there are fewer and fewer dogs that need help as tracks close across the country, and there are many more high-quality greyhound rescues that have emerged and grown as the racetrack population has declined.

GAC has a unique role in the greyhound rescue world, and our kennel has been a safe haven for injured greyhounds and track closures. Greyhounds needed what GAC uniquely could provide.

But, if we continue with “business as usual,” GAC will not be here as long as greyhounds on the last remaining tracks will need care. Such a course would not be fiscally responsible, or the best way to ensure those animals still at remaining tracks have a path to transitions to pets. After careful evaluation, we decided to divide GAC’s functions among several non-profit organizations that, as a whole, do what we once uniquely did. GAC will provide funding and supplies to help these groups continue the work as the racing industry declines.



Change is hard. One thing we know is that teamwork makes the workload lighter. Throughout GAC’s history, you have proven that more people coming together to solve problems always means that we reach the best solutions. We are excited to

partner with several outstanding greyhound rescue organizations and the incredible San Diego Humane Society to ensure that, even as tracks close, every greyhound finds rescue, medical care, and a loving forever home.

So, here's the plan:

- **We will divide our efforts between five groups that will take on specific parts of our functions, and we will financially support them so they can expand their mission as follows:**

- **Greyhound Friends for Life (GFFL)** will oversee GAC fosters, GAC adoption returns, Northern California greyhound adoptions, any unadopted GAC kennel dogs, and the 800 number with financial support from GAC. The folks at GFFL have been working closely with Kathy Johnson to ensure a smooth transition.

- **Operation Greyhound, FastFriends and GreySave** will offer quality greyhound adoptions in Southern California.

- **San Diego Humane Society (SDHS)** will create a fund for greyhounds with a gift from GAC to provide veterinary care and temporary boarding needs for greyhounds. They will assist the greyhound rescues listed above when needed. SDHS has a state-of-the-art veterinary center onsite. Dr. Candy Lewis, GAC’s co-founder, expert greyhound veterinarian, and medical director, will be available to consult with SDHS’s medical staff and share her unique



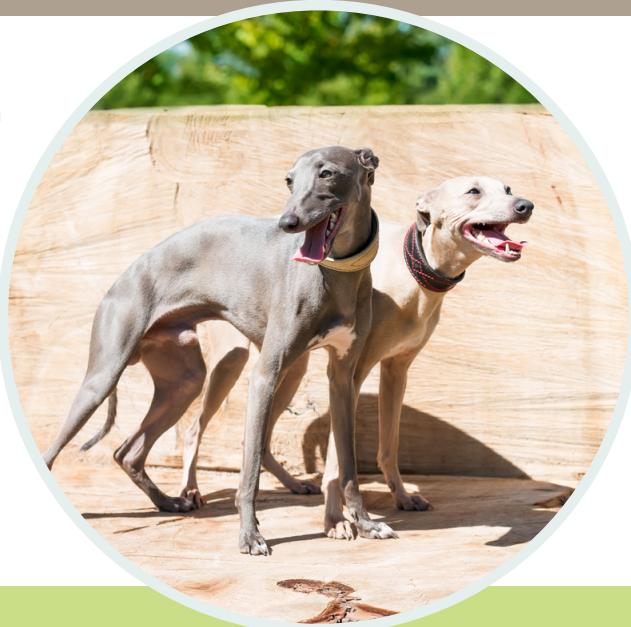
experience and knowledge of the breed. She will be available to them as long as there is a need.

• **Greyhound Adoption Center** will make gifts of cash and property to each of these organizations to help them take care of greyhounds for as long as necessary.

• **Kathy Johnson** will continue working closely with other greyhound groups. If you are fostering a GAC dog, Kathy will continue to be your point of contact.

• **Darren Rigg** will be retiring soon. It's hard to imagine any one person more knowledgeable about dogs and what makes them tick than Darren Rigg. He has put his entire being into GAC, and nobody deserves retirement more. But the good news is that he's working on a book! We only hope there will be enough copies to meet the demand!

NO GREYHOUND WILL BE LEFT BEHIND.



GAC Kennel and Field Users



The plan is for SDHS to sell GAC's property on Dehesa Road. The proceeds will go to a fund for the ongoing care of greyhounds and other dogs.

If you know of a dog rescue looking for a new location, please let us know. As you're well aware, it's an attractive property: it has a transferable kennel license, plentiful well water, a commercial solar setup,

and dog condos with skylights, central heat and air conditioning. It also has the Canine Sports Center and the Run Free Field – two grassy expanses that can provide additional income.

If the buyer does not intend to continue operating the Canine Sports Center or the Run Free Field, prepaid field users will have the option of a refund or donating their unused fees to the SDHS greyhound fund.



Contact Information

You can help ensure that no greyhound is left behind by remaining committed to this cause. The dogs will continue to need support from volunteers, staff, donors, adopters, and friends. Your privacy is important to GAC, and we have never shared your information. But, we will share your contact information with the San Diego Humane Society (SDHS), Greyhound Friends For Life (GFFL) and Darren's book publisher unless you opt out by **July 15, 2022**. We hope you won't, but you can opt out of information sharing in the following ways:

Online: <https://houndsavers.org/opt-out>

In writing: Greyhound Adoption Center, Attn: Opt Out, PO Box 2433, La Mesa, CA 91943-2433

Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC) is a California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN 95-4132021) that rescues, rehabilitates and places greyhounds and greyhound mixes in loving homes throughout California and partners with other greyhound-rescue groups to give as many greyhounds as possible a chance at life.



About OFFTRACK GREYHOUND

Offtrack Greyhound is published by Greyhound Adoption Center, P.O. Box 2433, La Mesa, CA 91943-2433. GAC houses greyhounds awaiting adoption at our shelter located at 4821 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, CA 92019.

Please refer to our website:
www.houndsavers.org.

Please do not send mail to our shelter address.



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More to Come

Some of you may be concerned about this news, but please don't be. GAC's Board of Directors and Darren Rigg unanimously approved this plan. Quality greyhound rescue organizations will continue the vital work of greyhound adoptions and fosters.

SDHS has committed to the medical and temporary boarding needs of greyhounds as long as is necessary – even after GAC's founder, Darren Rigg, retires. And if you know Darren, you know he would not hand over ANY responsibility to another organization if he did not feel that the dogs would come first. The vital work that Darren and YOU set out to do more than three decades ago will continue.

Darren had the idea, but since its inception, the core of this organization has always been its dedicated staff, its volunteers, its donors, its adopters, and those who used the community fields to help fund kennel maintenance. In other words: **YOU. EVERY ONE OF YOU.**

We will have more to share with you in the coming weeks, but we felt it was only fair to our hundreds of loyal staff, volunteers, adopters, and donors to let you know that this is on the horizon. And by all means, feel free to give to the SDHS fund for greyhounds at sdhumane.org/greyhound.

