

March 6, 2014

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2014 Could Be Busiest Year for Greyhound Adoption Center in San Diego

- **Local experts see more trainers discarding dogs as tracks close across the U.S.**
- **New [Houndsavers.org](http://www.houndsavers.org) website and social media program will track rescue efforts**

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – The [Greyhound Adoption Center](http://www.houndsavers.org) (GAC) in El Cajon, one of the world's largest greyhound rescue operations, predicts that 2014 may be its busiest year since its founding in 1987. Having rescued nearly 6,000 retired racing greyhounds and greyhound mixes to date, GAC founder and president Darren Rigg expects a steady flow of young and old greyhounds will find their way to San Diego in 2014 as dog racing continues to lose its audience and ballot initiatives close tracks nationwide. "We just rescued 14 greyhounds from Kansas and many were older breeding stock, males and females that are being relinquished as racing declines. We are here to avert tragedy and find every dog a loving home," Rigg explained.

Rigg said social media will play a big part this year in attracting more adoptive families and donations to offset the rising price of dog food and medication. In addition, costly surgeries are on the rise for an increasing number of dogs arriving with broken legs. "We have a terrific team of veterinary specialists who treat our greyhounds within hours of their being rescued. And volunteers provide plenty of TLC, healthy food and exercise," he added. The group's 3.5-acre kennel compound has been filled to capacity since last summer with an average of 55 dogs being cared for by a part-time staff and 80+ volunteers who feed, bathe, and play with the dogs that have lived in cages their entire lives.

New fundraising efforts debuting this year include **Run Free Field**, a members-only, private dog park located at the kennel. And a **Memorial Garden** will offer members and non-members the opportunity to purchase a final resting place for their beloved pets. The public can follow the latest greyhound rescue efforts via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [You Tube](#), [Flickr](#) and a blog on the newly redeveloped GAC website (www.houndsavers.org). Anyone can instantly sponsor a newly rescued dog by logging onto the website and purchasing food, toys, bedding or medications. Monthly sponsorships and yearly memberships are also available.

Rigg and his dedicated team of volunteers have no plans to slow down after nearly 30 years of rescuing greyhounds from around the world. "It is still surprising that people don't know how good 'greys' are as pets. There are about 20,000 of them still racing in the U.S. so that's a lot of 45-mph couch potatoes in need of forever homes." Greyhound advocates nationwide have declared April as National-Adopt-A-Greyhound month.

About GAC (www.houndsavers.org)

Since 1987, the non-profit Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC) has found loving homes for nearly 6,000 retired racing greyhounds and greyhound-mixes from across the U.S. Up to 150 greyhounds a year arrive at its San Diego, Calif. kennel to be nurtured and rehabilitated on the way to finding forever homes. Staff and volunteers help feed, bathe and exercise the dogs with some requiring extensive surgeries to repair injuries suffered on the racetrack. GAC carries out adoptions in California with extensive pre-and post-adoption support. Funded by generous grants, member dues and sponsor donations, GAC has grown to become one of the world's largest greyhound rescue organizations.

