

# Offtrack *Greyhound*

A Publication of Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC)



*Lisa Beagle, a volunteer at GAC since 2002, with her greyhound, Polani.*

## Without Volunteers, Rescue Efforts Would Stall

Somebody said volunteers are love in motion. That explains why Julie and Dave Cohen's 12-year-old Saturn SUV recorded an extra 4,000 miles last year driving Greyhound Adoption Center dogs to veterinary appointments.

Most Monday and Tuesday mornings, the retired couple picks up at the adoption center and ferries a dog or two. Other volunteers reverse those trips at the end of the day, bringing the newly spayed or neutered greyhounds back to the adoption center.

Why do it? "You get a warm glow in your heart," Dave replies.

### No stopping the love

When Sandy Grindle moved to Oregon three years ago, she could have hung up on telephone volunteering. Instead, she kept the line open. Now, every Tuesday,

she works two shifts – morning and afternoon – for a total of 12 hours. If she leaves her home, she transfers calls to her cell phone and checks messages regularly.

Sandy talks with people who call the adoption center for information about the dogs, adopting, visiting, donating, sponsoring or even volunteering themselves. She's been providing telephone support for about 14 years and sums up her volunteer longevity like this: "Who could not be motivated to volunteer for an organization that has such a wonderful group of dedicated people doing their very best to save these intelligent, affectionate and gentle dogs?"

Lisa Beagle is another adoption center volunteer whose love for the greyhounds has kept her coming

back year after year since 2002, despite changes in her family life and the distance to the kennel.

"As the years passed, I had to cut back my time to care for my family (husband, three kids and two large dogs), but I continued to volunteer as much as I could.

"My husband encouraged me to take a complete break for a year or two, but I just couldn't do it. The thought of not seeing the dogs was not a possibility. Every time I think about moving on to another volunteer opportunity closer to home (the drive to the kennel takes me 45 minutes each way), the thought of not seeing the dogs is truly more than I can bear."

### Help rev up the rescue

There is an almost overwhelming amount of work involved with saving greyhounds.

*"Volunteers" continued on inside left page...*



*Jessica Garrabrant, a regular turnout volunteer at GAC, gives Honeydew some attention.*

...*"Volunteers" continued from front page*

But our volunteers do it selflessly, tirelessly and with a level of commitment that defies measurement. Because of their efforts day after day, month after month, and year after year for some 30 years, the adoption center has found forever homes for thousands of greyhounds.

There are thousands more to be saved if we can reach them in time. Will you help us accomplish our lifesaving, life-changing mission by volunteering?

•**For transportation** – to and from veterinary appointments almost every day of the week, plus long-distance greyhound

relays throughout California.

•**For turnout** – four times daily where poop-scooping and dog-petting go hand in hand.

•**For kennel maintenance and yard work** – including maintaining the Run-Free Field adjacent to the adoption center.

•**For telephone support** – our lines are open every day of the year.

•**For walks and outings** – where the dogs benefit from individual attention and introduction to the real world.



*Honeydew gets a hug from Jessica.*

•**For "Show and Tells"** – to spread the word about greyhound rescue and adoption.

•**For fundraising** – we're always looking for great ideas.

**And more.**

For information about volunteering, email [volunteer@houndsavers.org](mailto:volunteer@houndsavers.org) or call (877) HOUNSAVERS or (619) 443-0940. We're looking forward to talking with you.

## Introducing a Unique Memorial Garden

Nestled in the beautiful Dehesa Valley near San Diego, the Greyhound Adoption Center's Memorial Garden will allow you to honor the memory of your beloved pets while supporting our lifesaving rescue efforts.

Constructed with a grant from the Petco Foundation, the landscaped grounds will offer burial plots that accommodate the cremated remains of any pet. You can also purchase benches, planters or trees to memorialize the animals that were part of your family.

You are welcome to visit your pets in their resting place during daylight hours, beginning at 9 a.m. If you wish to bring your current pets with you, please notify us in advance.

Fees for a burial plot start at \$250.

Secure a place now where the heartfelt memories of your pet will live on in an environment that cherishes the many ways animals enrich our lives. The garden will open this fall. Contact us for more details at [memorialgarden@houndsavers.org](mailto:memorialgarden@houndsavers.org).

Here are some of the memorial options:

**Private interments.** Cremated remains will be placed below ground in protected burial chambers. Custom-created memorial headstones with inscribed plaques will be locked into place.

**Plaques and inscriptions.** These can include your personal details and will be fixed in place to the headstone.

**Private remembrance services.** You may choose any day to commemorate the life of your pet with a private remembrance service in the memorial garden. A two-hour time period, between 1 and 3 p.m., with a limited number of guests will be reserved for you, pending availability. Arrangements should be made in advance at [memorialgarden@houndsavers.org](mailto:memorialgarden@houndsavers.org) or (877) 478-8364.





# Greyhounds on the Go

Thanks to some very loyal volunteers with trucks and vans, GAC can transport dogs from our adoption center to their forever homes across California and beyond.

Under the direction of co-coordinators Jim Howell, Bob Fluty and Kathy Stickrad, volunteers comprising GAC's Transport Team carefully orchestrate handoffs at various rest stops along highways.

In November 2014, Jim traveled back to his home near Sanger, Calif., after GAC's annual meeting. With him were two of the organization's hounds -- Crumple and George -- who were bound for adopters far from San Diego.

With the help of volunteer Linda Weller, the boys landed in Fresno where they met Crumple's adopters, Stephanie and Carter in addition to transport volunteer Rodger Meier who ferried George to his forever home in Sacramento.

After spending another three hours on the road, George was placed with Matt and Taryn and his new buddy, Luigi, a 6-year-old terrier-mix.

A few weeks later, Jim picked up a nonracer, GAC's Sasha, who had been found by a good Samaritan outside of Buttonwillow, Calif. This wonderful lady fostered Sasha for a week until our transport team could bring her to our center in San Diego.

Sasha met up with Cadel at the halfway point of their journey. While Sasha continued to travel south, Cadel headed north to the Garza family of Fresno.

In December, the transport team rallied for GAC's Jonny and Mopar. Jonny needed a lift to her forever home in Sacramento, so transport volunteer Paul Hartup swung into action delivering this pretty girl, who is now called Athena.

When Mopar met his adopters, Greg and Theresa of Santa Ynez, he got to know the couple's other greyhound, Woody (GAC's Beauregard), whom the family had brought along so the boys could meet each other on neutral turf.

In January, the transport crew brought GAC's Curlew and Persie to Northern California.

*Volunteer Rodger Meier with Siren during the transport.*

New adopters Jeff and Rosanna left their Fort Bragg home at dawn and drove more than six hours to meet their beautiful new girl Curlew, who is now named Audrey.

GAC volunteer Christy Schmidt was on hand to help bring Persie to his forever home with the Larson family in Chico.

Our road show includes the story of sweet Audrey at the Marriott Hotel in San Francisco. Her new family had to bed down for the night before their long journey home. The hotel's dining staff was so enamored of Audrey they allowed her to dine with the family -- even preparing her a special chicken dish.

*Siren's long road trip ended with a happy introduction to adopters Jim and Janet of Orangevale, Calif.*



*Siren, who is now Gracie, meets a member of her new family.*

As the night drew to a close, she climbed atop her brand-new bed and in typical greyhound fashion, fell fast asleep.

Another adventure for GAC's tireless transporters occurred recently when the team logged more than 500 miles to bring 3-year-old Siren to her new home in Orangevale, Calif. -- a town that features some of the best views of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

San Diego volunteer Bob Fluty got underway very early one Saturday morning to drive Siren to her first stop in Castaic where she hopped into Jim's van for a trip to Fresno.

She was a great traveler -- playing precious co-pilot inside the extended cab of Jim's truck..

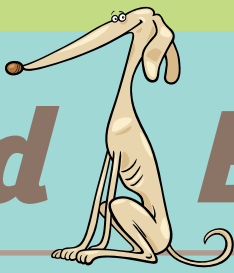
A few hours later, Jim and Siren met up with GAC volunteer Rodger Meier for another leg of the nine-hour journey.

Rodger drove Siren to Sacramento where GAC volunteer Barbara Willcox transported this beautiful girl to her new family. Gracie, as she is now called, is sharing her forever home with an 11-year-old mini-Aussie and a three-legged rescued cat.

***Many thanks to the tireless transport volunteers, placement reps and profilers who helped to bring our hounds to their new homes near and far.***



# Hound Bytes



## Busy Times at the Kennel

GAC is bursting at the seams with new greyhounds rescued from across the U.S. In late June, the “social media” group debuted with two girls and four boys – one the size of a small pony and aptly named for the social media giant, Facebook.

He arrived with Twitter, a sweet little girl with a fractured right leg -- so she was quickly booked to see the surgeon.

You can help us care for Twitter with a **donation to the Specialty Medical Care** fund by going to [www.houndsavers.org/basket/donation/](http://www.houndsavers.org/basket/donation/). The fund covers costly surgeries for greyhounds who suffer severe injuries on the track. You can learn more about the fund at [www.houndsavers.org/about-us/where-the-money-goes/#fyvie-fund](http://www.houndsavers.org/about-us/where-the-money-goes/#fyvie-fund).

The June surge kept the GAC transport team particularly busy. Six dogs were transported from Arizona on June 21, including three boys from the American Lurcher Project, Beach, Sailing and Sandcastle; two happy hounds from Alabama, Summer and Solstice; and Frisbee, a great big boy from Kansas.

Volunteers have helped relieve the pressure on the kennel by providing foster care to several GAC dogs. Many thanks to those who open their homes to help make room for more rescues.



Above: Facebook  
Left: Twitter



Freshly laundered  
blankets are ready  
for hound use.



## Greener Soap Suds

The GAC kennel volunteers are often knee deep in dirty laundry, which means up to 12 loads a day of blankets and toys to keep our hounds clean, dry and happy.

We're proud to say our facility has gone green thanks to a new energy-efficient washer that holds three loads of laundry while using less water, detergent and energy. The items come out nearly dry so they can be hung on a clothesline or take a short tumble in the dryer. Since the dryer has been moved out of the kitchen, our kennel cooling costs will be lower, too.

Thanks to the McCrea Family Trust whose generous grant to update our drainage system made this new laundry a reality. Visitors often marvel at the cleanliness of the kennel – just another way we brighten the lives of our greyhounds.

*The new washing machine extracts much of the water from laundry, cutting energy usage for drying.*



# How GAC Has Raised the Bar on Pet Adoption

***Dog-rescue groups range from home-based operations to professionally run adoption centers. Sometimes home-based groups can be here today and gone tomorrow. Conversely, professionally run groups with their own shelter facilities are more stable, and they are more likely to be around if or when you need them.***

When choosing to adopt a rescued dog, choosing the right rescue organization is also important. There are questions you should ask before you fall in love with a dog. The dog's future happiness – and yours – could very well depend on the answers.

## **How does the group handle adoptions?**

If the group suggests you pick a dog simply by color or size or cuteness, be prepared for the wrong dog. With greyhounds, for example, the breed is gentle, affectionate and easy to transition into many home situations. But each dog is different; each family is different.

After many years of happily-ever-after adoptions, GAC's adoption volunteers know that the surest way to create successful adoptions is to match the dog's thoroughly assessed traits and personality with detailed information about the adopting family or individual. We call it profiling, and it has raised the bar on pet adoption.

Profiling is like matchmaking: The needs and desires of the dog fit well with the living situation and lifestyle of the adopter. This method helps people find the canine companion that will change their lives for the better. Profiling helps prevent dog-to-dog aggression incidents as well as ensuring safety when adopting dogs into homes where cats and small children reside.

## **How does the group support adopters?**

Even savvy dog owners can be thrown a curve by a new dog. If problems or issues arise, will someone in the adoption group help you work through the solution? Do they have the expertise?

Pre-adoption and post-, GAC's experienced placement representatives and profilers work to ensure successful adoptions. We help every adopter get ready for the happy event and we maintain a close relationship after adoption for as long as the adopter wants.

**Will the adoption organization be there down the road for you and for your dog?**

In the event of life-altering circumstances Greyhound Adoption Center will be here when needed to provide a safe haven for your returning dogs.

## **How does the group get its dogs?**

Some greyhound-rescue groups are adjuncts of dog tracks; some even get paid by the racing industry to take dogs. Does that sit well with you?



GAC does not take funds from the racing industry. We do, though, take every dog we can, regardless of injury or illness. We remember when tracks disposed of injured dogs, usually once a week. Surplus greyhounds met the same gruesome fate. To do as much as we could to offset this heartbreaking situation, we

told dog track personnel we would be discrete as long as they gave us their injured and surplus dogs so none would be destroyed. Our "open arms policy" has worked in the dogs' favor. Thousands – literally, thousands – of greyhounds have been saved.

But open arms make for outstretched hands to pay for costly orthopedic procedures, veterinary emergency visits and lifesaving medications. So when we ask for donations, please understand that we ask on behalf of dogs that very likely would not have seen another day without us.

## **Is the group worthy of your support? Is the group legitimately nonprofit?**

A legitimate 501(c)(3) nonprofit group is subject to a number of government-regulated criteria, both to receive the tax-exempt designation and to maintain it. The Greyhound Adoption Center's nonprofit status has been maintained since 1987. Our Federal Tax ID # is 95-4132021

## **Where does the money go? Who runs the group? Who gets paid?**

When a charity asks you for support, you have every right to ask who gets paid.

Do more of the funds raised go toward the care of the animals – or toward paid executives?

The Greyhound Adoption Center has a volunteer board of directors; none of them is paid. Only our small crew of kennel employees, who take care of as many as 50 dogs every day of the year, are paid staff, and their workload is shared by dozens of fabulous, committed and hard-working volunteers.

## **Can the group be trusted with your donations or a bequest?**

A group with a permanent facility, trained staff, longtime dedicated volunteers, an operating budget, even a marketing plan, is one that is committed to the future of the organization, its mission, and to your peace of mind as a supporter. The Greyhound Adoption Center is worthy of your support.

## **About OFFTRACK GREYHOUND**

Offtrack Greyhound is published by Greyhound Adoption Center, P.O. Box 2433. La Mesa, CA 91943-2433. Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC) is a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to rescuing greyhound dogs and placing them in loving, responsible homes.

GAC houses greyhounds awaiting adoption in foster homes and at our shelter located at 4821 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, CA 92019. Visitors are always welcome, but please call us in advance.

If you or someone you know wants to adopt a greyhound, volunteer, sponsor a dog, foster, donate or help in any way, please pass along our phone number **877-478-8364** or refer to our website: [www.houndsavers.org](http://www.houndsavers.org).

To submit letters, articles for publication, photographs or donations, please go to the "contact" link on our website or mail your items to our P.O. box address. Please do not send mail to our shelter address. Photographs submitted for publication are not returnable.



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## GAC Van Debut

GAC's new rescue van debuted to an enthusiastic crowd at the April 19 open house in Dehesa.

Some 65 people came to the kennel to meet the hounds and get a look at the new Ram Promaster window van that was funded by a grant from the ASPCA and donations from supporters.

Lauren Radack Photography

*Volunteers, visitors and hounds got a closer look at the Greyhound Adoption Center's new van during its recent unveiling.*

Festooned with images of GAC-rescued greyhounds, the van will allow the organization to safely rescue more dogs from across the country. It also will travel to show-and-tell events filled with hounds and volunteers.

The brightly colored "wrap" is a proven attention getter. It caused people to stop and stare recently when the van was used to transport dogs to a veterinarian's office.

GAC relies on supporters to keep our rescue operations going seven days a week. You can help us bring more hounds to their forever homes by making a donation.

The visitors at the April open house were treated to give-aways and extra attention from some very friendly dogs.

