

GREYTIMES

the Homestretch Greyhound Rescue & Adoption Newsletter

Number 22
March 2017

Say Hello to the Greyhound Adoption Center

In the coming months all of the adoption services of Homestretch will be gradually replaced by the Greyhound Adoption Center, which is located in La Mesa. Founded in 1984, GAC services most of the state with a large network of placement representatives and transport volunteers.

The GAC adoption process is nearly identical to that of Homestretch: an written application, a phone interview and a recommendation of suitable greyhounds. When it is impossible for the adopter to visit the GAC facility to select a dog a lengthy discussion takes place prior to the selected dog being delivered to the prospective owner. Just like at Homestretch, if things don't work out, the greyhound goes back to GAC.

Also similar to Homestretch is the fact that GAC has consistently taken non racing (dessert dogs) greyhounds, taken in mixed breed signhounds and has a clear anti racing stance, all positions of extreme importance to the Homestretch Board of Directors.

GAC has agreed to accept any Homestretch returns and will be sending out a welcoming note in the coming weeks. Should you wish to not be on the GAC mailing list, please send an email to Homestretch at homestretchgreys@sbcglobal.net

Homestretch at the Finish Line

After 13 years of finding homes for hundreds of dogs, The Homestretch Greyhound Rescue & Adoption will no longer be in existence after June 30, 2017. The decision to close is related to recent events and the long-term strain on Homestretch founders Barbara Davenport and Bob Smith. Though initially increasing the influx of dogs, last summer's closing of the Tucson Greyhound Park will hopefully decrease the number of greyhounds needing assistance after leaving the racing industry. This coupled with Bob and Barbara not getting any younger (how'd that happen?) makes this the right time to step away.

Homestretch has been very fortunate to have hundreds of wonderful, caring adopters. We've heard so many stories of people doing everything they can to make their greyhounds' lives rich and enjoyable (it's called "drinking the cool-aid"). Homestretch has also been blessed with a dedicated and hardworking group of volunteers who have made the meet & greet events possible, in addition to providing financial assistance and, in some very special cases, loving foster homes. Unfortunately, the brevity of this "goodbye" newsletter prohibits mentioning all of our volunteers, adopters and friends. As much as we would like to create such a history document, we must follow our established rule of using resources directly for the dogs.

There is still great pressure for organizations to assist these special dogs. Whether it's a call from the track regarding yet another dog who has broken a leg or a greyhound who just needs more time to heal from emotional and psychological scars before being ready for adoption, the greyhounds still need support. We have been fortunate to have a great working relationship with Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC), which began during the Guam greyhound rescue. Without hesitation, they took in the majority of sick and injured dogs who arrived.

Homestretch has always prided itself on the support and care it has provided adopted dogs and their families. Even years after initial adoption, Homestretch has been there for "the kids." We are fortunate to have a large, veteran organization like GAC willing to take on the support of Homestretch dogs moving forward. GAC will be adopting out any remaining dogs in the Homestretch program as well as taking in any returns in the future. Bob and Barbara will still be around, assisting where we can, in order to ensure a smooth transition. We hope you will continue to advocate for the greyhounds and support Greyhound Adoption Center <https://houndsavers.org>

the Homestretch
Greyhound Rescue and Adoption

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Important Announcement Inside

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volunteers, fosters, Board*

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Homestretch Volunteers who help
with weekend Meet and Greets

www.homestretchgreys.org
homestretchgreys@sbcglobal.net
(805) 797-7706

Looking Back, The Homestretch

2004

As a branch of the Greyhound Adoption League, meet and greets are held in the parking lot of the Ventura Pet Barn and on State Street in Santa Barbara at Three Dog Bakery. GAL has a booth at the Solvang Greyhound Gathering and an the CARL Pooch Parade



2005

GAL entry in the Big Dog Parade wins first prize for "Race Cars not Dogs" In August GAL Ventura/Santa Barbara becomes Homestretch Greyhound Rescue and Adoption



Three greyhound puppies from the Bakersfield shelter come down with Parvo, but after four weeks of 24 hour care all survive to be adopted Chrissie is pulled from the Lancaster shelter, a recent mother with a broken leg, after amputation she is adopted by Linda and Larry Brown from Colorado who ran Retired Racers for many years.



2006

Homestretch has meet and greet events in Ventura, Santa Barbara, Camarillo, Santa Clarita, Palmdale and Santa Monica.



Boogie with no toes on one foot is saved from a breeding farm in Oklahoma by Teddy Palmer (Halfway Home Greyhound Adoption) and sent to Homestretch to be adopted by Kathy Kearns.



Snoopy, who is nearly blind is adopted by Jerry and Marlene Abrachinsky Petco holds Greyhound Planet which contributes \$4500 to Homestretch



2007

Okie has "trailer trauma" on the way from Kansas and is nearly dead when he gets off the trailer. After a week in emergency and a month of rehabilitation, he is adopted by Lavetta Benton in Atascadero.

Homestretch entry in the Big Dog Parade wins first prize for "Let a Greyhound Sail Into Your Life"



2008

Homestretch is the receiving group for an airlift of over 250 greyhounds from a closed track on Guam. Don and Elaine Irving, volunteers from Greyhound Adoption Center, and Jim and Sharon Higgins from GreySave (right) and many homestretch volunteers met the dogs on their arrival at LAX. The Guammies were housed at Homestretch until they are dispersed to adoption groups throughout the U.S. and Canada.



Alissa Charvonia dedicates her Bat Mitzvah to Homestretch raising \$2000



2009

Homestretch meets its average of 50 adoptions in six months despite serious fatigue from the Guam airlift and numerous returns due to the nationwide financial crisis and recession. Northcoast Greyhounds (Cara Brockhoff) does a special fundraiser for Homestretch raising \$3000.

2010

Homestretch becomes so financially stressed the Spring/Summer Newsletter is not sent out.

Very scared Gary is adopted by Lavetta Benton after 20 months at Homestretch



2011

Homestretch wins Kriser's "Christmas in July" contest getting votes from its volunteers and supporters of greyhound rescue all over the country who know about Homestretch because of the Guam rescue efforts. First prize is \$25,000 of pet supplies.



Aztec, one of the last dogs at Homestretch from Guam gets adopted after two years.



2012

Homestretch demonstrates against Skechers' Super Bowl commercial which features greyhound racing Zara has surgery on her painful hip which had been deformed since birth. Zara is later adopted by Rena & Robert Thompson of Vandenberg AFB.

Very scared Katie is adopted by Homestretch volunteer Rebecca Rice

and after a lot of TLC is able to take Agility lessons.

2013

The trusted Homestretch veterinarians who have provided free intake health checks (including all the greyhounds from Guam) open their own practice as Ohana Pet Hospital.

Al, who had frequent seizures comes to Homestretch after spending 14 months at Caliente without racing. . . Upton is transferred from a rescue in Florida. He came with a thunder phobia and an Ehrlichia titer of 1:5 million. He is still being fostered by Mette and Eric Peltz in Thousand Oaks.

2014

Wanda comes to Homestretch with a mysterious tick borne disease that causes muscle wasting and paralysis. After several stays in the emergency hospital and loads of medication she is adopted by Homestretch Board member Norma Beckner and her husband Dan.

ABC television announcer George Pennacchio hosts Pink's Hot Dogs 50th anniversary celebration. Pinks donates \$2000 to Homestretch. Hunter, adopted from GAL by the Reyes family in Santa Paula as our first adoption, passes away at 14 years of age.

2015

Homestretch volunteers from Santa Barbara make collars and leashes that are sold at the Solvang Greyhound Gathering raising thousands of dollars Homer's Hounds, a fund for injured greyhounds at Homestretch is established by volunteer Jean Smith Charlie comes to Homestretch from Korea with heartworm. After treatment he is adopted by Carolyn Geiger.

2016

Tucson Greyhound Park closes creating a large wave of available adoptables who are assimilated by groups across Arizona and California, including Baker, who is still available for adoption.

2017

Homestretch closes.

