

"Smilin' Amazon" continued  
from front page...

Amazon, Joanne, Doug and Nox became a family.

Amazon was re-named Fionn (pronounced Finn), inspired by the red-haired giant Fionn mac Cumhail, from Irish mythology.

Doug and Joanne say GAC did a remarkable job pairing Fionn with Nox. "GAC was — and remains — supportive in every respect. They care about the dog, and they care about you. GAC wants your match to work for the long term."



Doug states, "Fionn asks only two things from us: a few minutes every evening scratching behind his ears, and for us to be as happy to see him at the end of the workday as he is to see us. We've never had any trouble paying that forward, on time, and with interest."

Fionn is clearly bonded with Nox, and, although Nox drives him nuts at times, they visibly miss each other when they're apart.

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Amazon.com will donate to Greyhound Adoption Center if you shop through smile.amazon.com. Prices and selection are exactly the same, but Amazon will give a percentage of your purchase to GAC. Since 2014, smile.amazon.com has donated more than \$8,500 to GAC.

HERE'S HOW:

- Visit smile.amazon.com
- When prompted, select Greyhound Adoption Center as your charitable organization
- Shop!
- Every time you return to shop, use the URL smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com
- You can even shop through Smile on the Amazon app

Greyhound  
Adoption  
Center

Fall/Winter 2019

# Offtrack *Greyhound*

A Publication of Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC)



## Amazon Still Smilin' Where is Amazon Now?

Joanne and Doug, from east San Diego County, are the guardians and companions of a Bengal cat named Nox. Nox is eight years old, an exotic breed, big and bold with a personality to match. How he might be persuaded to live with a dog was a big question for Joanne and Doug, because they really wanted a dog. After thorough research into various canine breeds, they found GAC online and learned about rescued track greyhounds. They attended a GAC open house, met some dogs and volunteers and came away convinced a greyhound would be their answer. The make-or-break criterion, of course, would be the dog's ability to live comfortably with Nox.

Their GAC placement representative first explained to them how each dog is individually tested with cats. Under very controlled conditions, the greyhound — muzzled and leashed — is brought by experienced volunteers into a fenced area where the cat is free to roam. The dog's first reaction usually lets us know

if the dog should be further tested or if he/she would not be safe with cats or other small, furry critters. A dog that investigates the "test kitty" and then ignores her is a good candidate for a home with cats. That dog is then further tested until we feel confident he/she can be sent home to live with a cat.

The adoption process at GAC involves close coordination between the placement rep, who has met the family at the home visit, and our profile team, a group of experienced and highly knowledgeable volunteers who work with the dogs and get to know them as individuals. These folks are responsible for the matchmaking — identifying the dogs that will be the best fit for the family as well as the family that can provide the best home for the dogs. The most likely candidate for Joanne, Doug and Nox was an ex-racer we called Amazon. Amazon is a big, beautiful red boy, strong and healthy, with a friendly outgoing personality. He had passed all the cat tests safely and with flying colors.



One special challenge that we faced with Nox was his "home gym." The enormous cat has the equivalent of a giant hamster wheel for exercise. Most greyhounds would give chase to a running cat, but the profile team thought that Amazon would be able to handle even this challenge. Because of this unusual circumstance, we brought Amazon to visit Doug, Joanne and Nox at home. The bold and curious cat met us at the door. Amazon was calm. When Nox got on the exercise wheel, Amazon watched curiously, but was more interested in being petted by his new friends. With Amazon passing his final cat test,

"Smilin' Amazon" continued  
on back page...



## The 2020 Calendar is Here!

Make sure to renew your membership to Greyhound Adoption Center to secure your copy of the new GAC 2020 calendar.

This year's calendar stars GAC's adoptable dogs. Many thanks to renowned professional photographer Lauren Radack, who donated the wonderful cover and monthly feature photographs of greyhounds awaiting adoption. You'll love this exclusive GAC calendar.

Greyhound lovers who join or renew their memberships at the Advocate (\$55) level or higher will receive a logo decal and a 2020 greyhound calendar as a thank-you gift.



Get the latest GAC news all year long. Sign up for our email newsletter by sending us a request at [newsletter@houndsavers.org](mailto:newsletter@houndsavers.org)

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### 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 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, 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 PO Box address. Please do not send mail to our shelter address. Photographs submitted for publication are not returnable.



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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.

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

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# Macau Dogs & Florida Advocacy

## A New Chapter for GAC: Advocating for Greyhounds Around the World

Until July 2018, greyhounds were dying by the dozens at the Canidrome Racetrack in Macau, China. The conditions in which the greyhounds were kept were, at best, grim.

At worst, estimates are that over the course of the Canidrome's 55-year history, almost 20,000 greyhounds had been killed – about 30 every month.

When the track known as the worst in the world was pressured by greyhound advocates to close last year, Greyhound Adoption Center was on the front line to help save the last of the Canidrome's 532 greyhounds.

The hellish lives of the Canidrome dogs changed for good after unrelenting pressure and campaigning led by greyhound-advocacy groups, principally among them Anima – Society for the Protection of Animals in Macau (a Macau-based rescue facility), Pet Levrieri (Italy-based dog rescue group) and GREY2K USA Worldwide (the nonprofit political-lobbying organization dedicated to ending dog racing worldwide).

When a call was sent out for a single U.S. rescue group to organize and oversee the shipment of several hundred of the dogs to the United States – a first-of-its-kind exodus – GAC answered.

### The incredible journey from hell to happiness

As is usually the case in dire rescues like this one, time is critical and nothing is simple. Saving the Canidrome greyhounds involved brokers and customs officials, permits and more permits, drivers, multiple airlines, vetted rescue groups from one American coast to the other, not to mention both the United States and Chinese governments, with the latter being especially bureaucratic.

The incredible journey for these survivors began with a ferry ride from Macau to mainland Hong Kong, where they were housed until they could be flown out five dogs at a time on two 12-hour non-stop flights. Two airlines – KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines) traveling through its Amsterdam hub, and Frankfurt-based Lufthansa – were selected as the carriers because both have facilities at their home airports equipped to hold dogs overnight, if needed, in safe environments with trained animal-handling staff.

### Every dog made it out safely

The orchestrated effort – as complex as they come – involved 12 U.S. airports around the country, from New York to San Diego, and hundreds of volunteers, some traveling more than 800 miles to get to an airport well in advance of the dogs' arrival.

Every dog landed safely. GAC welcomed 42 Canidrome dogs – more

older dogs than younger, including two 10-year-olds. None had ever before experienced kindness and love.

In total, the airlift resulted in 315 greyhounds heading to loving homes in the USA. The remaining dogs were placed by Pet Levrieri and other trusted rescue groups in Europe.

### GAC's advocacy beginnings

The Canidrome deliverance wasn't GAC's first venture into advocacy. Almost two years ago, several GAC volunteers played a pivotal behind-the-scenes role in the closing of a Texas canine blood bank, where 151 greyhounds were rescued from horrific conditions. Of the Texas dogs GAC took in, many were so medically compromised they remained at the center for a long time until they were physically strong enough to be released for adoption.

With the Canidrome feat now behind it, GAC is gearing up for the next big advocacy hurdle. And what a doozie it is.

Last November, Floridians overwhelmingly passed Amendment 13, ending all greyhound racing in the state by January 1, 2020. That ban is now enshrined in the state's constitution. What happens to those former racetrack dogs is now the issue at hand.

There are thousands of greyhounds affected – some at the 11 active dog tracks, some at farms and training facilities. Likely, a fair number will go to the remaining five states where racing is still allowed – Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Texas, and West Virginia. But that will still leave more greyhounds to be adopted than ever before in the annals of the racing business.

GAC will pursue every means to see that the Florida greyhounds find rescue. Your support – through adopting, donating, volunteering, and spreading the word about what wonderful pets greyhounds are – can make a difference.



# Will You Sponsor My Temporary Home?

Every year, more than 100 greyhounds find their first loving temporary home at Greyhound Adoption Center. It is at our center where they experience love and learn to trust. Eventually, they will transition to their forever homes, but while they are here, we provide food, medicine, soft beds, and lots of love.

Please consider sponsoring a temporary home for a greyhound – your name or business name will be featured on a beautiful plaque outside one of Greyhound Adoption Center's canine condos or on one of the spacious interior crates.

**Condo Sponsorship** – Our Canine Condos feature spacious air-conditioned/heated

rooms with elevated beds, soft bedding, toys, and skylights. Each condo has a dog door and a dedicated run with room to play. The greyhounds are treated to room service meals twice a day, along with maid service and nightly turn down service—including a cookie in lieu of the standard hotel mint. Social time with friends is scheduled at least four times daily.

**Crate Sponsorship** – Our interior crates include all the amenities of the condos with a smaller enclosure that is ideal for new greyhounds just getting used to life away from the track and for injured hounds who have exercise restrictions.

• **Condo Sponsorship:** \$500/month per condo plus a one-time \$100 engraving fee.

• **Crate Sponsorship:** \$100/month per crate plus a one-time \$100 engraving fee.

For information on condo or crate sponsorship, contact: [newhome@houndsavers.org](mailto:newhome@houndsavers.org)

<https://houndsavers.org/how-you-can-help/newhome/>



# Video Training Library

Whether you're new to greyhounds or are long-time adopters, check out GAC's video training library. The current short video library includes titles like:

- Do's and Dont's for Adopters (3 min)
- From Track to Pet Life (3 min)
- Learning About the World (4 min)
- Cats, Dogs & Children, Oh My! (6 min)
- Housetraining and Transitioning from Track Dog to House Pet (9 min)
- Helping a Fearful Dog (11 min)
- Volunteer Do's & Dont's (3 min)
- And more

These videos are available online at <https://houndsavers.org/resources/video-training-library/>



# This Just In

## More Great News

Live greyhound racing will end in Arkansas by the end of 2022! Southland Casino Racing in West Memphis will phase-out operations over a three-year period. The wind-down will provide enough time for approximately 1,200 greyhounds at the track to be adopted. Greyhound Adoption Center will keep you informed on these happenings.



# A Lasting Legacy

In loving memory of three very special volunteers and supporters for their generous 2019 estate gifts: **Mary Flesner, Shirley McKinney and Joyce Dickison**. Thank you for remembering the greyhounds.

Please consider leaving a **legacy** for the greyhounds in your estate planning. Contact [bequests@houndsavers.org](mailto:bequests@houndsavers.org)