



Thank You to the Linzas for their Sponsorship!

We thank the Linzas for their generous exclusive sponsorship of our 2021 Greyhound Adoption Center calendar! Terry and his wife, Terè, are adopters of Cuddy (GAC's Blister) and Keelor (GAC's Lennon). Longtime volunteers, the Linzas this year added sponsorship to their generous contributions to GAC by sponsoring a crate and being a patron of *each of our featured sponsor dogs* for the year. We are very touched by their generosity.

The 2021 Calendar is Here!

Make sure to renew your membership to Greyhound Adoption Center to secure your copy of the new GAC 2021 calendar.

This year's calendar stars some of GAC's donors with their adopted dogs, as well as some of GAC's adorable adoptable hounds. Many thanks to photographers Chuck Nichols and Scott Hardy, who donated the wonderful cover and monthly feature photographs.

Greyhound lovers who join or renew their memberships at the Advocate (\$55) level or higher will receive a logo decal and a 2021 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

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PO Box 2433, La Mesa, CA 91943-2433

1-877 HOUNSAVERS (1-877-478-8364)

info@houndsavers.org
www.houndsavers.org

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. 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 at 4821 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, CA 92019. Visitors are welcome, but please call us in advance.

To learn how to adopt a greyhound, volunteer, sponsor a dog, donate, or help in any way (including no cost / no time giving), call us at 877-478-8364 or visit our website: www.houndsavers.org.

We welcome pictures for our Facebook and Instagram pages. Please send them to share@houndsavers.org. To submit letters or articles for publication, you may email info@houndsavers.org, go to the "contact" link on our website, or mail us at our PO Box address. Please do not send mail to our shelter address. Physical photographs submitted for publication are not returnable.

Newsletter team: Brianna Acuesta, Myriah Southard, Kirsten Klinghammer



Fall/Winter 2020

Offtrack *Greyhound*

A Publication of Greyhound Adoption Center (GAC)



2020: The Year of Change

by Brianna Acuesta

The year 2020 will go down in history as the most interesting year in modern times, but not for the fun-filled decade opening that people were predicting back in 2019. Although the COVID-19 pandemic halted the operations of most industries around the world, Greyhound Adoption Center has continued to run every day with in-person staff and volunteers. GAC has still had to adapt in ways we never predicted, but we have been able to do so thanks to our wonderful supporters!

Our adaptation actually began more than a year ago. Before 2019, we were accustomed to receiving and adopting out former racers between the ages of one and six from a nearby racetrack. However, in 2018 the Canidrome racetrack in Macau, China, closed, leaving nearly 600 greyhounds in need of rescues to take them in. GAC personally welcomed 42 of those hounds later that year and through early 2019. These hounds were distinctly different from the ones we were used to from the United States. Many were over 6 years old (some as old as 9), 40 of them had an extremely high prey drive, all of them had severe dental disease, and none

of them was well-socialized. Since it took longer to find the right homes for them, the bottleneck their presence created reduced the number of new dogs we could accommodate, leading us to adapt our intake and placement procedures.

From Banning Racing in the U.S. to COVID-19 Changes

Just as GAC staff and volunteers adjusted to this new way of life at the kennel, tracks around the country began to close due to changing laws, and demands for new racing dogs decreased. As fewer young dogs were being sent to training and tracks, adoption groups such as GAC started receiving an influx of them instead.

When COVID-19 hit, Greyhound Adoption Center immediately began implementing health safety recommendations and has thus far remained free from any COVID-19 outbreak. All workers wear masks, social distance whenever possible, and the entire kennel is disinfected after each shift. Adoptions have continued with all attendees wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Traditional home visits



for prospective adopters have transitioned to virtual visits. When our vet suspended elective surgeries (such as spays/neuters), select dogs were chosen to "foster-to-adopt" to reduce crowding at the kennel. It hasn't been easy, but we've learned with each new change!

GAC has been able to adapt, as we know it's necessary to keep moving forward. Our ability to do this is thanks in large part to our donors. Without donors, GAC wouldn't be able to bring new dogs in, care for them at the kennel, and get their medical needs addressed before going home. Thank you to all our supporters, who give in so many different ways to make sure the hounds are cared for!



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Where Are They Now?

by Brianna Acuesta

Many of the dogs that Greyhound Adoption Center received from the closed Canidrome track were deemed “hard-to-adopt” due to their age and special needs. So when Stephanie Malady and Mike Burton stepped up to take THREE of them, we knew it was a special home that needed a spotlight! Cerin, Joy, and Twostep - who are now Shadow, Greycie, and Wylie - are living the dream life with their loving parents in Escondido, CA.

It all started a few years ago, when Stephanie and Mike met greyhounds that belonged to friends. Stephanie said, “The dogs were so much fun to be around that I started researching retired racing greyhounds. The more I learned about the retired racing greyhounds needing homes, the more I wanted to adopt one. I had never owned a dog before, but Mike had multiple dogs growing up.” Soon after applying for adoption, they met Shadow.



Shadow, Greycie, and Wylie are all older girls who arrived from Macau, and Shadow was the first dog we placed from this group of dogs. Stephanie said, “Shadow had a super high prey drive when we brought her home. In the first few weeks, she caught finches in mid-

flight, lizards, gophers, and mice in the yard. She didn’t like cuddling or having her hindquarters petted.” Stephanie and Mike worked with Shadow and loved her so much that they decided to adopt a second greyhound within a few months. They chose Greycie, who had an even higher prey drive than Shadow. “Greycie’s drive to hunt/chase is so strong that she has a hard time snapping out of it, even when you have treats in your hand. Shadow rarely needs correction now. Greycie still comes running to us for her treat after she takes a potty break or stops digging a hole back to China.”

The family of four was content for a few more months, but while volunteering with GAC, Stephanie learned that Wylie had recently been returned to the kennel and was depressed and not eating. Stephanie remembers that she went home to tell Mike about Wylie and used the argument: “Three is the same as two, right?” The



couple planned to foster Wylie until another home came along, but, to no one’s surprise, she soon became part of the family. “We decided to keep Wylie because she seemed to be the missing link between Greycie and Shadow.... She complemented the pack.”

The girls still need constant training to rein in their prey drive and stubbornness, especially on walks, but they are also love bugs who enjoy their life at home. Shadow now loves cuddling, kissing, and having her rear end scratched. Greycie loves to zoom in the yard and controls which of the other two can zoom with her that day. Wylie is a lap dog who loves watching Mike tinker around with his bike. Stephanie also explained why she decided to start volunteering at GAC, despite the hour drive it takes to get there: “Somebody volunteered to help my greyhounds, so I wanted to help out somebody’s future greyhound(s) residing at GAC. Our greyhounds are always happy to see us return home, and they always grab a squeaky toy to show off. There’s never a dull moment. Even though Mike said it would never be allowed, the couch and bed belong to the dogs and we love it.”

We are so grateful to Stephanie and Mike for welcoming these three hounds, especially when GAC needed it most!

Keeping Up With Kensi

by Brianna Acuesta

In addition to the former racers that GAC receives, we also take in stray greyhounds and greyhound mixes. So far in 2020, we’ve taken in two strays, one of whom had a badly broken front leg. GAC named her Kensi and transported her straight from Carson Animal Shelter to VCA Specialty Group in San Diego.

Thanks to our awesome donors, Kensi underwent a 6-hour surgery to repair her leg, fully funded by individual donations. She recovered for a few days, and then went straight into a foster home with employee Brianna Acuesta, her husband Eric Dominguez, and their two small dogs. Of course, within a few weeks, they

decided to keep her! She is now named Amelia Bones.

Amelia’s recovery was broadcast on social media to fundraise for her surgery, and she has come such a long way since then! She has gained weight and her coat has become sleek and shiny. She is doing so well physically that it is difficult to tell that her leg was ever broken. Behaviorally, however, Amelia is still getting used to life in a home.

Something that a lot of people don’t know about Amelia is that she is incredibly



shy. Her first five weeks she was often immobilized by fear, so she had to be lifted into a standing position each time it was time to go outside. She remains nervous

every time she sees a stranger, and she hides behind her parents whenever possible. One thing which has helped her is learning that she is part of a pack. If her fellow dogs are comfortable with what’s happening, then she can be, too. Amelia now eats all of her food, goes on walks, and travels well in a car.

Teaching Amelia how to be a confident dog in the world has been challenging, but so rewarding! She and her fellow dogs get along beautifully (her favorite is Toast, who taught her how to play), and she has learned that face kisses are fun and that getting her tush scratched feels great! It’s all thanks to our donors that GAC was able to rescue Amelia, give her the care she needed, and find her the perfect home. Individual donations ensure that we can keep taking on these urgent, costly medical cases whenever they may appear! Foster homes for our special needs dogs can also be a lifesaving resource. Please contact GAC if you believe you have the right home for a special needs hound.



Video Training Library

Whether you're new to greyhounds or are long-time adopters, we think you'll enjoy GAC's video training library. Thanks to training tips in Helping a Fearful Dog, Amelia (GAC's Kensi) is blossoming into greater confidence each day.



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



Leave A Legacy To Help The Greyhounds

Please consider leaving a legacy for the greyhounds in your estate planning. Including Greyhound Adoption Center in your planned giving is a way to leave a **legacy** of kindness and generosity that will continue changing lives for years to come.

Contact: bequests@houndsavers.org