



# GC Connection

Greyhound Companions of Missouri

GC Connection

www.gcmo.org

## Musings of a Foster Mom - Rachel Schwoppe

"But how can you just give them up?" was a common response after I explained that the beautiful, friendly dog next to me wasn't mine to keep. Some people looked at me like I was heartless, others like I was a saint, but it was clear that most didn't understand why I loved the job of foster mom.

I'd lived in St. Louis for five years, working on a degree in genetics, before making the best decision of my time in this city and contacting GCMO. Life in the research lab was equally dull and frustrating, and it had become a constant struggle to feel connected to the outside world, and most of all, useful to anyone. Luckily, as you can probably guess, my very first day of fosterhood fixed that for good.

If you haven't experienced a pair of brown eyes fixed on you, the sight of a funny long nose and a longer tongue hanging out, and a soft pair of ears trying to wedge themselves under your arm like an overgrown lap

dog's, you're missing out. If you have, you know how much better your day is when it includes the

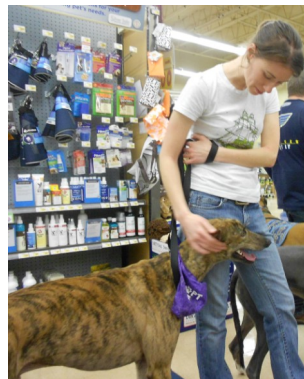


greyhound who thinks you're the absolute best, all the time, but perhaps especially when you have a treat or leash in your hand.

Even more when you have a greyhound, you gain a dog friend, but an unexpected bonus is all the new human friends! I'd walked around the neighborhood for years, but add a gorgeous four-legged companion and suddenly everyone smiled and wanted to say hello. Meet & Greets became a favorite Saturday activity: time to swap stories with other grey parents and show off my new pal to what was typically a steady stream of greyhound admirers.

It must be said that not everything is always instantly perfect when a brand new dog arrives, and it was at these moments that I was most grateful for the folks of GCMO. They provided a 24/7 network of support and advice, and my foster tenure would certainly not have been so enjoyable without the comforting knowledge that I wasn't alone.

You might ask if I love greyhounds so much, why did I foster instead of getting one for keeps? Logistically it just made more sense – grad school would be finished in a few years, and I had plans to



move overseas, which would be undoubtedly stressful for all. It was a 10-12 year commitment to

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## GCMO

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Musings of a Foster Mom - *Continued from page 1*

providing a good life for a dog that I just couldn't imagine making at the time.

The more selfish reason is that fostering provided a project that kept me busy – this greyhound was counting on me not just for daily care, but also for the long-term goal of finding a home.

As such, I constantly strove to maximize exposure to potential adopters, cultivate the best behaviors at home, and take the most appealing pictures possible. Overall, the sense of purpose provided by fostering balanced my entire life, and it was incredibly rewarding to work with the board members to



help a greyhound find the perfect fit in a new home.

So how did I “just give them up?”

While it wasn't easy, it was with no reservations. Goodbyes were always sad, but I knew my new friends were healthy and happy,

and that GCMO had made sure they'd be living out their days in loving homes with endless treats, ear scratches, and walks, as these sweet dogs truly deserved.

Thank you to all of GCMO, and especially Jane Jackson for her hard work with coordinating fosters and Donna Sander for all the laughs and support – you all are the greyttest!

## “Gio” - A Very Special Boy - Looking for a Very Special Home *by: Lisa Will*

Meet Gio. This most handsome boy is 3 years old and looking for his forever home. He came to GCMO in early 2013. He and 5 other greyhounds were retrieved from a shelter. He came to us looking rather pitiful, and under the gentle loving care at his first foster



home, he got healthy and started to learn about being a beloved family member. From the beginning it was obvious that Gio had some special “quirks”. He was not comfortable outside, especially during the daylight, too much outdoor activity made Gio anxious. As daylight hours increased it became more of a daily struggle to get Gio outside while it was light out. He would go, but not willingly and any activity at a neighbors home would send him running for the door back inside to his safe zone. After trying different tactics we decided that maybe Gio needed a different environment,

one that would possibly offer less external stimulation, where he could learn that the “sky was not falling”.

Gio came to stay with me and my 3 female greyhounds on June 8th. It was obvious from the beginning that my 6 foot privacy fence would definitely help him with his fear of the outside world. In the short time he has been with us, Gio has learned to enjoy short walks in the neighborhood, he is very aware of his surroundings, and while some things that happen on walks, like garbage trucks and loud cars still make him somewhat anxious, he has come a long way. He is very comfortable in my yard, and will go outside easily, but if he can hear voices of people outside, he does get a little worried, but he recovers quickly with a confident, “it's okay, you are alright” from me.

This boy is truly delightful, he is happy, loves, loves to play with toys, eats well, sleeps all night and is always happy to see me. He is crated during the day, and accepts that as his safe place when no one is home, he loves his kong filled with peanut butter and then frozen. He loves to play with his foster greyhound sisters and enjoys running laps in the yard. What Gio needs is a family to



appreciate him for who he is, a happy, adorable boy who loves his people and other greyhounds. He will return your love and affection ten-

fold, as long as you understand he needs to be reminded that the sky is NOT falling. Gio is not cat safe, and small children make him nervous, he would enjoy a quiet, laid back home.



***Gio - looking for his forever home. Might it be yours?***

If you are interested in adopting Gio, please contact me:  
ghdmom@yahoo.com or 314-921-4761

## GCMO REUNION 2013 SCHEDULE

- 12:00 Registration begins (**don't forget to register your senior!**)  
**Be one of the first 50 families to sign in at the welcome booth and receive a free tote bag full of goodies!!**
- 12:15 Welcome Announcement by GCMO President, Lisa Will
- 1:00 Nail trims (from 1:00 to 3:00pm) - donations to support our permanent foster program
- 1:00 Greyhound Game - "Paw Painting (make a picture with your pooch to take home)" **\$2.00 donation per painting**
- 1:30 Salute to Seniors with the crowning of the King and Queen  
**(oldest male and female present and registered at the welcome booth)**
- 1:45 Greyhound Game - "Can you identify your hound blindfolded?"
- 2:15 \* **First** group of raffle basket and permanent foster baskets winners drawn
- 2:45 \* "Basket o' Booze" and Lottery Scratch Off Basket winners drawn
- 3:30 \* **Second** group of raffle basket winners drawn



Food will be available from 12:00-3:00pm  
Nail trims from 1:00 to 3:00pm to support our  
permanent foster program



\* You don't need to be present to win any of the raffle baskets, please put your name and phone number on the back of each ticket.



## 2013 Fall/Holiday

### Search & Find



Hound Holiday Hazards: Beer, bones, cactus,  
candles, chocolate, coffee, electric cord, fireplace,  
foil, garlic, hemlock, holly, ivy, liquors, medications  
mistletoe, nuts, onion, open doors, ornaments,  
poinsettias, raisins, raw meat, ribbon, sorbitol,  
tannenbaum, tinsel, tree water, visitors,

**Bring this with you to the reunion!!!!**

**Sunday**

**September 29, 2013**



### ATTENDANCE DOOR PRIZE!

Fill out this entry blank and drop at the welcome booth to be  
entered for an attendance prize drawing  
(to be drawn every 10 minutes)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Look Who's Home!!

Rice Family-----Tizzy  
 Gayou Family-----Beowulf  
 Stuckey Family-----Card  
 Sagitto Family-----Arlo  
 Dunn Family-----Theodore  
 Higgins Family-----Rudy  
 Conway Family-----Maggie  
 Wickenhauser-Sumner Family---Page  
 Rice Family-----Diego  
 Unkrur Family-----Major  
 Pillai Family-----Molly  
 Giannasi Family-----Angus  
 Isaac Family-----Sammy

Denkmann Family-----Autumn  
 Rathz Family-----Hyde  
 Scott Family-----Lisa  
 Blackwell Family -----Coach  
 Honeycutt Family-----Jedi  
 Spezia Family-----Faith  
 Cumberland-Thrasher Family-----Gia  
 Fonner Family-----Visa  
 Wodtke Family-----Gail  
 Bassett Family-----Jonas  
 Mantro Family-----Dara  
 MacIntosh Family-----Sweetie  
 Rung-Blue Family-----Cash



*Mid pleasures and  
 palaces though we may  
 roam,  
 Be it ever so humble,  
 there's no place like  
 home.*

## Greyhounds Available for Adoption

We are receiving 3 new greyhounds on Sunday 9/1. We don't know much about them yet, but more information will be available about them on our website and our facebook page.



**Samurai Drive** - 4 years old. Has not been cat tested, according to Teddy at Halfway Home, he is a wonderful boy!

**Follow the Piper** - 3 years old, she is cat safe, and quite beautiful!



**Moselle** - 3 years old, and not cat safe. There was not a picture available, but she is red fawn, and another beauty!



This is **Good Time Wanted (Joyce)**, she arrived in St. Louis on 8/24. She is 3 1/2 years old and a very sweet girl. More



info about her and the other new kids will be forthcoming, watch the web-site and facebook!

## A Brief Note from the President

As I am sure many of you understand, fundraising and donations are what keep GCMO afloat. For some years now, we have been doing okay with our annual fundraisers and regular donations from all of our wonderful adopters. However, 2013 has seen some large, unexpected expenses. We had a permanent foster dog treated for cancer, and two new dogs who faced serious and expensive medical situations

shortly after arriving at GCMO. Asking for money has never been an easy thing to do under any circumstances, and frankly, we are ok, but our funds are diminishing, faster than we are accustomed to. With that said, we are hoping you will join us on Sunday September 29 for our annual reunion, our largest fundraiser of the year. We have some wonderful items in our basket raffle, the cart'o cocktails raffle and the

popular lottery ticket raffle, and of course GCMO merchandise. We will also be doing our annual gift wrapping this holiday season, and can always use help. Finally, as always, any donation to GCMO is fully tax deductible.

On behalf of all the GCMO greyhounds, past, present and future, Thank you for your continued support.

**- Lisa Will**

## In Loving Memory

Jackson Family ..... Hawkeye  
 Conway Family ..... Lucy  
 Martinez Family ..... Jazz  
 Denkmann Family ..... Tulip  
 LeVeck Family ..... Ranger  
 Sagitto Family ..... Randy  
 Rice Family ..... Sandy  
 Rice Family ..... Rugger  
 Stephan Family ..... Emmett  
 Pillai Family ..... Lacy  
 Cole-Helbig Family ..... Adam  
 Giannasi Family ..... Jenny  
 Hubach Family ..... Bindy  
 Qualló Family ..... China  
 Emerson Family ..... Shilo  
 Hensens Family ..... Goldie  
 Jose Family ..... Angie

Dickherber Family ..... Marco  
 Binch Family ..... Foxy  
 Scherer Family ..... Daisy  
 Davis-Hargadon Family ..... Margo  
 Langenhorst Family ..... Smilee  
 MacIntosh Family ..... Classy  
 Willy-Quenzer Family ..... Missy  
 Roland Family ..... Sammy  
 Mantro Family ..... Casey  
 Hinojosa Family ..... Christi  
 Correnti Family ..... Sheba  
 Cole-Helbig Family ..... Wylie  
 Sagitto Family ..... Fancy  
 Praechter Family ..... Irish  
 Goldberg Family ..... Cleo  
 Crossier Family ..... Sugar  
 Spraul Family ..... Hawk



*Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always near, so loved, so missed, so very dear.*

## Greyhound Companions of Missouri - On Line!

GCMO now accepts paypal! You can make secure on-line donations anytime via the new link on our website at **[www.gcmo.org](http://www.gcmo.org)**

The GCMO website and facebook page are the best ways to keep up to date with what is happening. You can also get email reminders of events. If are not already receiving these emails, send an email to Donna Sander at

**[sanderdl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanderdl@sbcglobal.net)**

And she will get you on the email list.

We love to hear from our greyhound families, you can post pictures on our facebook page so everyone can see how wonderful and cute your greyhound is!

We will also be posting pictures of some of the awesome items for rafle at the reunion on both the website and facebook page, take a look, we are sure there will be something you have to have!

Facebook and the website are greyt ways for all of us to stay in touch!



# Our Heartfelt Thanks

## General

Matt and Christin Braunel  
Rick and Elaine Cameron  
Ronda Cumberland  
Bridget and Carter Cunningham  
Dale and Laurie Dendtler  
James and Stacy Emerson  
Ashley Gray  
Greyhound Planet Day of St. Louis  
Pat Grunwald  
Phyllis Hanicke  
Kay Hubach  
Jackie Keating  
Rosie and Charles Laedlein  
Craig and Jennifer Love  
Joe and Mary Lou Mikecin  
Joyce and Bruce Patton  
PetCO Foundation  
Carmen Quenzer  
Holly Rummel  
Ray Sisson  
Slicks Greyt Booties  
Susan Spraul  
Bruce Stoliar  
Robert Thorne  
Tony and Virginia Trice  
Rosilee and Philip Trotta  
Carol Weinhold  
Barbara Wotawa

## In Honor of

Sara and Michael Fiebiger in honor of Nancy Burke  
Richard and Margaret Fonner in honor of Visa  
Nancy Giannasi in honor of Dr. Janet Chipperfield and her staff  
Pat Grunwald in honor of Fran Davis  
Laura Jones in honor of Gus  
Tara and David High in honor of Johnathan High  
Tara and David High in honor of Bahia Spahr  
Tara and David High in honor of Philomina Spahr  
Bill and Tracy Macintosh in honor of Donna Sander  
Victor and Cynthia Silver in honor of Melita Stevens  
John Stuckey in honor of Nonie Stuckey's birthday  
Nonie Stuckey in honor of John Stuckey's birthday  
Nonie and John Stuckey in honor of their 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
Mr. and Mrs. Stuhl in honor of Nancy Burke

## From Nancy Burke in Honor of

Mr. Michael Bakewell  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fiebiger  
Mr. Dave Kiefer  
Mrs. Arnold Horween  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Larimore  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lehman  
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Lortz  
My Best Friend Veterinary Center  
Mr. and Mrs. Jules Pass  
Mr. and Mrs. James Reiker  
Mr. and Mrs. John Ross  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Schaberg  
Rev. and Mr. Peter Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stern  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stuhl

## In Memory of

Nancy Burke in memory of Hawkeye  
Alice and Steven Cass in memory of Connie Blum Mathews  
Lisa Feters in memory of Scarlett and Asia  
Ellen and Brian Grubbs in memory of George J. Stumm, Sr.  
Lori Haberman-Wilson in memory of Emmett  
Laura Jones in memory of Jenny  
The La Veck Family in memory of Mickey, Boniface, and Ranger  
Greg Mathews in memory of Connie Mathews and Snickers  
Ellen Grubbs in memory of Emma  
Joann Stephan in memory of Emmett

## In Memory of Joe Mikecin

Mr. and Mrs. Corey Berger  
Tony and Jan Cerra  
Fabick CAT  
Leah Freesmeier  
Gregg and Gina Garrison  
Bob and Jane Haas  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hiatt  
Floyd J. Lahay  
Menzel Family  
Frank and Bonnie Pellegrini  
Ed and Gert Rohde  
L. E. Sauer St. Louis  
J. P. Somersaulter  
Ellen Toler  
Westermann Family (Julie and Carl, Rita Westermann-Bolton, and Mary McLaughlin)  
Marit and Donald Withdraw  
Spencer and Mildred Wolling  
Gail Zink and Garry Bartles  
Jan and Jeannette Zinkgraf

## In Memory of Mary Lou Mikecin

Jack and June Banderet  
Tony and Jan Cerra  
Home Depot, Management Staff and Associates  
Fabick CAT  
Floyd J. Lahay  
Frank and Lenore Miles  
Ed and Gert Rohde  
Spencer and Mildred Wolling

## For Tiger's Medical Costs

Jeff and Patty Erdman  
Kay Hubach  
Craig and Jennifer Love  
Gregg and Joy Bassett



***Greyhound Companions of  
Missouri***

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## **Upcoming Events**

Current GCMO Event Calendar is available online at [www.gcmo.org](http://www.gcmo.org)!!

Recurring monthly events are:

**1st Saturday of the Month**

Nail Trims - Best Friends Animal Hospital ~ 202 Frank Scott Parkway - Swansea IL

**2nd Saturday of the Month**

Meet & Greet - Petco 12519 Olive Blvd, 11 am to 2 pm

**3rd Monday of the Month**

Monthly Meeting ~ St. Louis County Library ~ Fee Fee Road North of Olive 7:30-9pm

**3rd Sunday of the Month**

Meet & Greet - Petco Manchester & Baxter 11 am to 2 pm

**4th Saturday of the Month**

Meet & Greet - Petco Brentwood ~ Brentwood Pointe 11 am to 2 pm

**\*\* Please Note:** These events are subject to change, please check [www.gcmo.org](http://www.gcmo.org) and like our facebook page for the most current activities\*\*

Don't forget, our annual Holiday Gift Wrapping will happen again this November/December!!

If you would like to help with any promo/event contact Donna Sander at [sanderdl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanderdl@sbcglobal.net) or just come on out!