



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

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Musings of a Foster Mom (Cont’d)</i> | 2 |
| <i>Gio - A Special Boy</i> | |
| <i>2013 Reunion Schedule</i> | 3 |
| <i>Puzzle</i> | 4 |
| <i>Attendance prize coupon</i> | |
| <i>Looks Who’s Home Greyhounds Available for Adoption</i> | 5 |
| <i>A Brief Note</i> | |
| <i>In Loving Memory GCMO On Line</i> | 6 |
| <i>Our Heartfelt Thanks</i> | 7 |
| <i>Upcoming Events</i> | 8 |

GCMO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- LISA WILL
- JANE JACKSON
- CONNIE DENKMANN
- JUDY ELLERMANN
- ELAINE CAMERON
- MELISSA COLE
- FRAN DAVIS
- PAT GRUNWALD
- JANET KISTER
- PATTY LUTER
- DONNA SANDER



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

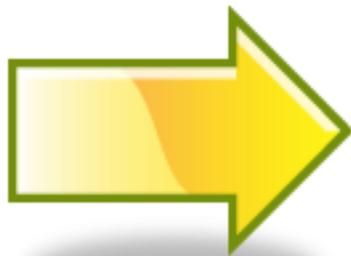


Hound Holiday Hazards: Beer, bones, cactus, candles, chocolate, coffee, electric cord, fireplace, foil, garlic, hemlock, holly, ivy, liquors, medications mistletoe, nuts, onion, open doors, ornaments, poinsettias, raisins, raw meat, ribbon, sorbitol, tannenbaum, tinsel, tree water, visitors,

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.

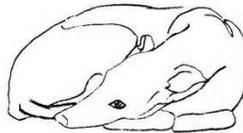


Samurai Drive - 4 years old. Has not been cat tested, according to Teddy at Halfway Home, he is a **wonderful** boy!

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 website 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**

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

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 raffle 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 57th 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 Fetters 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*

P.O. Box 713
Manchester, MO 63011

314-221-5274

www.gcmo.org



Upcoming Events

Current GCMO Event Calendar is available online at 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 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 sanderd1@sbcglobal.net or just come on out!