

The Truth About 10 Dogs at Greyhound Friends

Allegations have recently been made, based on incomplete and incorrect information, that Greyhound Friends staff, volunteers, and veterinarians collectively neglected and mistreated 10 dogs that came through the organization's adoption kennel. Uninformed speculation about quality of care has been circulated and amplified online. The following summary provides needed context and more complete information about each of the 10 dogs, gleaned from the first-hand experience of staff and volunteers as well as comprehensive records kept by Greyhound Friends and provided to state and local authorities.



1: Candy

Candy was a beagle mix who came to Greyhound Friends from a shelter in Kentucky. After testing positive for Lyme disease at intake, she was treated with doxycycline, as well as receiving Panacur for diarrhea and Heartguard/Frontline for heartworm and flea/tick prevention. Because Candy was very shy with strangers, staff and volunteers spent one-on-one time with her, to help socialize her and reduce her anxiety in new situations, aiming to improve her chances of adoption. She was housed with a shy hound named Sarah who came in at the same time; the two dogs were bonded and efforts were made to find an adopter interested in taking them both. Due to these special needs, Candy's (and Sarah's) stay at Greyhound Friends was longer than most – over a year. When the kennel was closed in early 2016, Candy (along with Sarah) was transferred to Rainbow Rescues, a foster based shelter in Western Massachusetts. It is worth noting that both are still listed as available there as of September 2018, though Sarah was adopted separately and later returned.

A month after Candy left Greyhound Friends, urinary issues were noted and diagnosed as a urinary tract infection (UTI). Candy was treated appropriately for a UTI. The condition did not resolve, so further testing was performed and her antibiotic was switched – a standard procedure for a UTI. Eventually a bladder stone was detected by x-ray, and the treating veterinarian opined that the stone had been present for some time. There would have been no way to diagnose this before the urinary symptoms appeared. Candy presented no symptoms or concerning issues while at the Greyhound Friends kennel, such as urinating in her cage, frequent urination, or signs of pain in the bladder area. Candy was handled and observed multiple times each day by people who knew her and cared for her. Any unusual symptoms would have been addressed at Greyhound Friends, had they been present.

Our protocols now specifically address longer stay dogs and prioritize foster care for them whenever possible. The protocol for longer-stay dogs includes annual checkups, in addition to the usual prompt veterinary attention for any symptoms of illness.

2: Hickory

Hickory was a very shy greyhound who was regularly given social time with other dogs to help him come out of his shell. On one such occasion he was attacked by another dog, an unfortunate event that sometimes happens unpredictably, even with close supervision. Hickory's wound was treated immediately by a veterinarian, who also prescribed antibiotics. A review of records indicates that an incident report of the bite was not filed at the time, as it should have been.



Greyhound Friends' new, comprehensive protocols require the completion of incident reports for any instance of dogs fighting and/or biting. All volunteers and staff will be trained to fill out forms in a timely manner, and the Compliance Officer will ensure both training and proper follow-through.



3: Cam

Records show that while at Greyhound Friends, Cam was examined by a veterinarian for a swollen toe that caused a limp. He received antibiotics and pain medication; then after re-examination, medicated foot soaks were added in an effort to reduce the swelling. Cam continued to be evaluated by a veterinarian, including a second opinion to see if amputation could be prevented through continued non-invasive treatment. Eventually surgery was determined to be the best treatment option. Cam’s toe was amputated and he recovered well.

4: Maddie

Maddie arrived at Greyhound Friends with dental disease requiring some extractions, which was diagnosed at her veterinary intake. Ordinarily, such dental work would be done when a new dog is spayed or neutered, soon after arrival, but Maddie was already spayed. She was also scheduled to be transferred to the Baypath shelter within a month of her arrival, so the treatment was postponed until her transfer to ensure continuity of care, and Greyhound Friends offered to cover the expense. It was Maddie’s eventual adopters who addressed her dental disease.



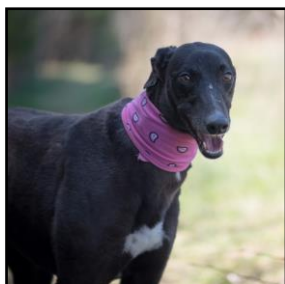
Some adoption groups will not accept dogs with medical issues requiring a financial investment; Greyhound Friends does, and we disclose any known medical issues to adopters and offer financial help in addressing those issues.



5: Moe

Records show that during Moe’s neuter, swelling was noted in one toe and a biopsy was performed while he was under anesthesia. He was treated with antibiotics, pain medication, chlorhexidine soaks, and a bootie to protect his bandage. Amputation was recommended as the biopsy came back positive for a spindle cell (soft tissue) tumor. Most such tumors are slow-growing, and metastasis is rare. Moe’s toe was amputated several weeks after diagnosis, and follow-up testing was done to ensure no further treatment was needed.

During his toe surgery it was discovered that Moe had some minor wounds on his neck. The cuts were not noticeable during his regular handling and care; once noted, they were treated and there were no complications. Skin tears are not an uncommon occurrence for greyhounds, since they tend to have very thin skin that can tear with non-aggressive mouthing or clawing during physical play. Greyhound Friends now has a policy requiring detailed reporting of such injuries, so they can be properly tracked and the delivery of any necessary treatment can be documented.

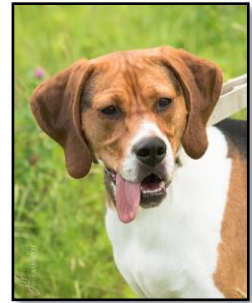


6: Beach

Kennel staff noticed that Beach had some swollen skin around a toenail on her front left foot and had her examined by a veterinarian. It was thought she may have stubbed her toe or injured it while running in the exercise field. Upon examination it was noted that Beach’s right rear foot had three small lumps on the underside. While a possible approach would be to remove these and have them biopsied, the veterinarian ordered a chlorhexidine soak for a week as well as antibiotics for two weeks. Beach was treated as prescribed, and no further intervention was needed.

7: Zander

Zander was a very young hound dog, bouncy and strong, constantly active, very vocal, and highly energetic. He would require dedicated work and training from his adopter, one who could provide long hikes, regular activity, as well as a home with a large fenced yard where Zander could work off hours of intense energy. At the shelter, Zander was housed in the back kennel area for several reasons: he could interact with other hounds like himself; he was insulated from some of the activity in the main kennel; and his energy was less disruptive to the quieter, calmer dogs in front. Zander was attended to regularly by staff and volunteers, and he was brought out to meet potential adopters with an active lifestyle who may have met his needs. Other than his need for activity and training, Zander had no behavioral problems or special concerns.



To ensure that behavioral concerns are noted and addressed consistently, Greyhound Friends' dog care protocols call for behavioral assessment for all incoming dogs and record keeping to track socialization and training activities.

8: Archie

Archie was a young hound who came in from Ohio. His records noted that he had bloody diarrhea, which is a common indicator of intestinal worms. At Greyhound Friends Archie was given Interceptor, a medication that prevents heartworm disease and also controls and removes a range of intestinal parasites. No other intervention was needed, though ideally Archie's records would have shown a re-examination to follow up on the diarrhea symptom.

Our protocols now state specific measures to be taken with any dog with diarrhea, including separate turnout pens, additional disinfection schedules, and veterinary follow-up and medication if needed.



9: Crucial/Hershel

Hershel was a greyhound who was adopted, but later returned to Greyhound Friends by his owners. They reported that he had broken his leg at a dog park, and after that trauma he had started becoming aggressive towards them. Hershel came back with no medications and was bearing weight on his leg, which was stitched but not wrapped. Hershel was examined by Greyhound Friends' veterinarian, who started him on pain medications and an antibiotic. He was also given a topical medication for a slight ear infection. Hershel was very anxious, restless, and reactive

when he was returned. When this continued and he still showed anxiety and aggression after his leg and ears were properly cared for, a veterinarian added a short course of anti-anxiety medication to see if that would help calm him. However, Hershel continued to become more restless and more aggressive. Another veterinarian was consulted about any available options to manage his behavior. Hershel tried to bite staff on multiple occasions and was unpredictable, unsafe to handle and unable to be adopted out. He was evaluated by an experienced veterinarian and on his strong recommendation, the difficult decision was made to euthanize Hershel.



10: Emma/Diamond

Diamond was a pitbull mix with a spunky, fiery personality who came from Indiana. The decision was made to accept Diamond into the shelter because she came from an unusually bad abuse situation and as a result was especially reactive to being touched, which greatly impaired her adoption prospects so she was at risk of euthanasia. Greyhound Friends' intention was to find a local, breed-specific rescue that could take Diamond, work with her, and maximize her chances for successful adoption.

Records indicate that Diamond had received all her required vaccines prior to her arrival. Veterinary staff attempted multiple times to get a blood sample for a 4DX test, which tests for heartworm, lyme, anaplasma, and ehrlichia. Each time Diamond nipped and bit, until finally the staff veterinarian determined she would have to be sedated for the blood draw at an animal hospital. Diamond had no clinical signs of heartworm or any other disease. She was handled in the regular course of caring for her at the kennel, but handling had to be done very carefully, because she tended to nip at people. She did fine with more experienced staff and volunteers, who were able to do some work with her. Diamond could not be socialized with other dogs because there were concerns that she would get into a fight.

Diamond was transferred to Pittie Love rescue approximately two months after her arrival. They brought her to a veterinarian and she tested positive for heartworm. It is impossible to tell how long she carried the microfilaria. As it has consistently done, Greyhound Friends offered to compensate Pittie Love for Diamond's medical care, including heartworm testing and treatment.

Overall Quality of Care

Records and staff both confirm that overall, dogs at Greyhound Friends received appropriate, attentive care and vetting, including prophylactic treatments and behavioral interventions. Incomplete record keeping did occur on occasion, and those oversights have been addressed. Improved and digitized record keeping systems, state of the art protocols, and a dedicated Compliance Officer will help ensure that we not only deliver but document exceptional, individualized care to all dogs at Greyhound Friends.