

## Letter from the Director

Dear friends of Greyhound Friends,

First, heartfelt thanks to all our supporters for making 2020 a successful year despite the challenges of pandemic closures and restrictions. We were all able to stay safe through these troubling times while remaining open, on a limited basis, to help greyhounds and other dogs in need.



*Terri Shepard and friend*

Our kennel was active throughout the year, though we placed dogs by appointment only and scheduled minimal staff and volunteers to reduce interactions. Restrictions on visitors and volunteers prevented us from growing as we had hoped, but this is temporary. **As we reopen, we are planning to reinstate our volunteer programs, educational and community outreach, and annual Open House events.**

Greyhound racing has ended in Florida, which has virtually halted the flow of domestic racing greyhounds for adoption in Massachusetts. **During the past year we have been working on developing collaborations with other adoption groups**



*A few of our recent adoptions.*

to make our services available to dogs in critical need both in the US and overseas.

We are collaborating closely with **Greyhound Rescue of New England**, sharing resources, expertise, and kennel space to better fulfill our shared mission of sighthound adoption and advocacy. Diane Stevens has run that group for over 20 years before closing her kennel last December. She has joined the Greyhound Friends staff as Director of Finance and brings her experience as a retired CPA to this role. Diane's skill set is well suited to handling financial

accounts and budgets and contributing to fundraising and planning activities.

We have also made connections with **Sugarfoot Farm Rescue** in Kentucky, where adoption demand is not as strong as in New England, even during the pandemic. Spay/neuter practices are less common there, leading to a glut of unwanted dogs. Our collaboration has brought in some healthy, happy mixed-breed dogs who were adopted very quickly into loving households.



*More of our recent adoptions.*

Through our relationships with **Fast Friends Greyhound Adoption** in New Hampshire and **Greyhound Friends of New Jersey**, we were able to bring in nine dogs rescued as strays and meat trade survivors in China through **Candy Candy Cane Rescue**, based in the UK. A major donor covered their substantial travel costs to help make these lifesaving transports happen. These were eight wonderful greyhounds and one whippet, who came from the harshest, cruelest conditions and have now found loving homes here in New England. While they bear some scars from their past, all are adapting beautifully to life as treasured pets.

More connections are being developed on the international front, from helping Irish greyhounds, podencos in Portugal, and galgos in Spain. **As restrictions ease and travel becomes less costly, we hope to place a few of these dogs while advocating for their humane treatment abroad.**

We hope it will be safe to hold an in person Open House this fall. We miss the social connections and warm camaraderie this event creates. Until then, please stay tuned for new dogs, virtual events, and adoption success stories!

As always, we are grateful for your continued support.

*Theresa Shepard*

Theresa Shepard, CDT  
Kennel & Operations Manager

## Podencos – Portugal’s Invisible Dogs

In collaboration with Greyhound Rescue of New England, Greyhound Friends has partnered with Bring Portuguese Podencos to Light (BPPL), a Michigan nonprofit whose mission includes rescue, rehoming, and public education about podencos in the Azores. Many have never heard of this sighthound breed, or the harsh conditions of their lives as hunting dogs in Spain and Portugal.



*Bienvenida McManus*

**Podencos are sighthounds, and just like their greyhound cousins they make wonderful pets.** Cher McManus, a Greyhound Friends adopter, now owns Bienvenida, a female Podenco Canario (one of the recognized varieties). Cher says, “She is the sweetest, goofiest girl! They are joyful and generous. I highly recommend one! Or two... or more.”

Podencos (also spelled podengos in Portuguese) come in several recognized varieties, with smooth and wire haired variations and plenty of intermixing from unplanned litters as well as intentional breeding for a "better" hunting dog.

Here’s how the Podenco Alliance, formed to alleviate the suffering of podencos and other hunting dogs in Spain, describes the breed: “As well as being athletic, resilient, clever, independent and noble dogs; by nature podencos are also funny and cheeky, naturally tactile and so loving. But above all they are sensitive, caring... souls like no other.”



*Podencos in the Azores . Photo courtesy of Bring Portuguese Podencos to Light*

**It is only in recent years that public interest has begun to grow for the humane treatment of podencos and for their suitability as companion pets.** The American Kennel Club recognizes Portuguese Podengos as "... one of ten National Dogs of Portugal and ... the symbol of the

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## Shona and Sugar Rae Mahoney

*Kathy and Bob Mahoney of Wellesley, Massachusetts are dedicated Greyhound Friends supporters and longtime adopters. They have owned 14 greyhounds over the years, as well as seven other dogs. Kathy tells the story of two special greyhounds who live with them now.*

In the fall of 2017, I was without greyhounds for the first time in over 20 years. In October I was asked to take 8-1/2 year old Shona, whose owner was being transferred to Germany. She entered my home seamlessly and immediately adapted to the presence of my two small dogs. She was calm and affectionate and, in my opinion, a perfect dog.

My husband and I soon learned that Shona had two puppies while living on a greyhound farm in CT. Bob did some research and was able to locate one of those puppies. Sugar Rae had just begun race training in Kansas. We offered to buy her from her owner.

Sugar Rae arrived in April of 2018 and had just turned two. I have always marveled at the fact that she is the most loving and affectionate of all my greyhounds because she

had no previous socialization. She cannot get to me fast enough. I hear her running down my hallway and it sounds like thunder in the clouds. However, I don’t think that Shona and Sugar Rae know that they are related.



*Shona and Sugar Rae. Photo by Judy Barrette*



*Shona, being perfect*

I consider all my dogs to be a huge blessing in my life. They have added meaning and so much love. Shona will turn 12 this April. As always, I am hoping for the best.



## All Together Now

Greyhound Friends perseveres through the most challenging of times. This past year, when every aspect of our work was made more difficult, costly, and time-consuming, has been a particularly strong example.

But we kept going – with the tireless work of devoted staff and volunteers, and the financial support of donors who continue to believe that **Greyhound Friends continues to meet pressing and important needs.**

Although placing dogs in loving homes is central to our mission, we're also here to support our adopters and the



greater greyhound community; to advocate for the humane treatment of all animals; and to educate the public about greyhounds and their sighthound cousins everywhere. As always, we honor our commitment to rehome any greyhound in need, and we have taken in and rehomed several older and “special needs” greyhounds this past year.



*This beautiful Tree of Life honoring special friends greets visitors in our reception area.*

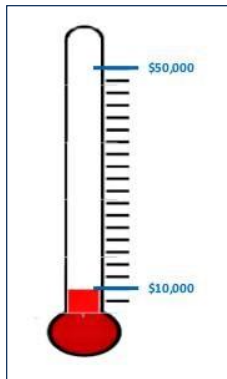
To support our work into the summer months, **we are launching a fund drive to raise \$50K** – funds urgently needed to support our ongoing daily operations. With gifts and commitments from our most dedicated donors, **\$10K has already been raised!** Can we count on your help to meet the rest of our need?

Our major monthly expenses include the care and vetting of dogs in our kennel, staffing, mortgage payments, insurance, utilities, compliance and administrative costs. All these expenditures are for the benefit of the dogs.

**Your support in any amount is welcome and deeply appreciated.**



Please mail your contribution today or scan the code to make a secure credit card donation by PayPal at [www.greyhound.org](http://www.greyhound.org).



## Save the Date

Greyhound Friends will hold a (mostly virtual) **Spring Open House on Saturday, May 22, 2021**. Details are in the planning stage, but please save the date and stay tuned for updates by email and on our Facebook and Instagram accounts.

As is our Open House custom, **we will hold a Remembrance Ceremony** in our beautiful Memorial Garden.



*May 2020 Remembrance Ceremony*

If you have lost a special dog friend since our last remembrance in September and you would like their name included in the ceremony, **please email [smelhado@comcast.net](mailto:smelhado@comcast.net) to add them to the list, no later than Friday, May 21.**

*Please note: you should receive an acknowledgment email saying that your request was received. If you do not receive a response to your email, please try again or let us know right away. We do not want to leave your loved one off the list inadvertently.*



**We will also place new memorial bricks** in our garden prior to the Open House. **If you would like to order a brick in memory of a special dog** (or other pet, or person),

please download the order form with instructions at <https://qr.go.page.link/jPhJJ> (or scan the QR code to go to the form).



**Please send in your completed order and payment by April 15 to be included.**

### SEEKING SKILLFUL VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for a few new talented and conscientious volunteers to help lead and strengthen our programs. Do you have a passion for saving dogs in need and promoting their humane treatment? Have good people skills and enthusiasm? We are especially looking for knowledge in fundraising, PR/marketing, and IT (website building).

If you can contribute some time, thoughtfulness and expertise and you are interested in exploring this opportunity, please email us at [info@greyhound.org](mailto:info@greyhound.org) and request an application. Then we can set up a time to meet at the kennel and chat about your potential contribution.

## Podencos – Portugal's Invisible Dogs

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Portuguese Kennel Club." And yet, the podenco in Portugal is seen mainly as a utilitarian, working animal and kept in extremely harsh conditions. **Greyhound Friends is helping inform the public about the podenco breed,** alongside other animal welfare organizations striving to



Podencos in the Azores. Photo courtesy of BPPL.

improve their conditions. Descended from ancient Egyptian dogs, modern podencos' ancestors were brought to the Iberian Peninsula by Phoenician traders around 800-900 BC. Once belonging to nobility and highly cherished, **podencos have become one of the most abused breeds in the world,** says Salome Antolin, project director at Michigan based BPPL.

improve their conditions.

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BPPL photos show the deplorable conditions these dogs are routinely kept in, in the Portuguese Azores.

In coordination with Greyhound Rescue of New England and BPPL, **we are working to bring a few podencos to Greyhound Friends,** for adoption and also to raise public awareness. Covid travel restrictions have presented some obstacles, but we expect the first arrivals in early April.

**Podencos are sweet, companionable, affectionate, funny dogs - and most of all, deserving of kindness and care.**

Want to help? Please spread the word, follow us for updates, and if you can, please send a donation to support this important work. We cannot do it without you.



Podencos in the Azores. Photo courtesy of BPPL.



### PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!

We send print mailings infrequently to keep costs down, but only a fraction of our friends are on our email list. Please join (or update your information) so we can stay in touch with you between mailings. Just scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/2PwItD3> to complete a secure form.



*We hope to see you soon at Greyhound Friends. Please stay tuned for updates as we readjust to post-pandemic operations.*

## More Ways to Help

Not everyone can write a big check to support a great cause. Here are some other ways to help Greyhound Friends. Every gift is appreciated and it all adds up.

- ♥ We have kennel wish lists set up on Amazon.com and Chewy.com
- ♥ We are registered with Amazon Smile and ebay as a charity you can designate to receive a small donation – at no cost to you – when you make a purchase.
- ♥ If you're on Facebook, you can run a personal fundraiser to benefit Greyhound Friends. It's a nice way to celebrate a birthday or honor someone special.
- ♥ Select us on the Wooftrax app to send small amounts (free) when you walk your dog – [www.wooftrax.com](http://www.wooftrax.com).
- ♥ Become a monthly Sustainer through PayPal to give a little at a time instead of a single, larger amount.
- ♥ Include Greyhound Friends in your estate plan. Consult your attorney or contact us for more information.

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