

## Letter from the Director

Dear friends,

As 2021 draws to a close, all of us at Greyhound Friends are immensely thankful for you, and for everything you help us to accomplish, despite challenges old and new. **Your sustained engagement and encouragement drives us** to remain open, to stay on mission, and to continue our work helping dogs (and dog loving people).

Focused as we have been on the day-to-day work, we should pause for a moment to note that **Greyhound Friends will turn 40 in May of 2023!** In the coming months as we prepare to enter our 40<sup>th</sup> year in what we affectionately call “the used dog business,” let us acknowledge what we continue to accomplish, together, to help greyhounds, sighthounds, and other dogs in need.



*Terri Shepard with a greyhound friend*

This year we welcomed dogs from Massachusetts and elsewhere in the United States, and from as far away as Ireland, Portugal, China and Qatar. In our Spring newsletter we wrote about the dire conditions of Portuguese podenco dogs and why helping them, if only a few at a time, is both necessary and consistent with our mission. In this issue you can read about Irish

greyhounds and why they need urgent help too. We partner with domestic and international rescue groups that share Greyhound Friends’ mission of adoption and advocacy for dogs in need. **Our ongoing and new collaborations mean that more dogs find great homes, while we make the most of sharing resources with our partners.**

With the lifting of some pandemic restrictions this year, it was wonderful to see many of you at Open House and other, smaller events. Soon we hope to begin restarting – with safety precautions – regular business hours, volunteer opportunities, and educational and community outreach programs. Please join our email list for timely updates.

As always, we are grateful for your friendship and support.

*Theresa Shepard*

Theresa Shepard, CDT  
Executive Director



*Happy Holidays from Greyhound Friends! Wishing you peace, health, and happiness in the New Year.*

## Bright Spots and Highlights

The dogs we guided home through our collaborations were some of the year’s highlights. **Greyhound Rescue of New England** also joined us in several collaborations, both domestic and international, and some of the dogs who came in as a result are rehomed through GRNE.

Partnering with **Sugarfoot Farm Rescue** in Kentucky, where spay/neuter practices are less common and stray/unwanted dogs are plentiful, resulted in nearly 20 dogs and puppies adopted into loving homes. While we were relieved to know that Sugarfoot was not in the path of the devastating December tornadoes that tore through southwestern Kentucky, our thoughts are with all the people and animals suffering through harsh conditions there. We are ready to bring more dogs up north from that area to help make room for housing newly displaced animals there.

In the late fall we also teamed up with **Hounds of Grace** in North Carolina, bringing three beautiful hound mixes to Massachusetts.

Nine sighthounds rescued from the meat trade in China flew in to find local homes through Greyhound Friends as we teamed up with **Fast Friends Greyhound Adoption** in New Hampshire and **Greyhound Friends of**



*Penny, a foxhound mix rescued from a cruelty case in North Carolina, helps with some correspondence.*

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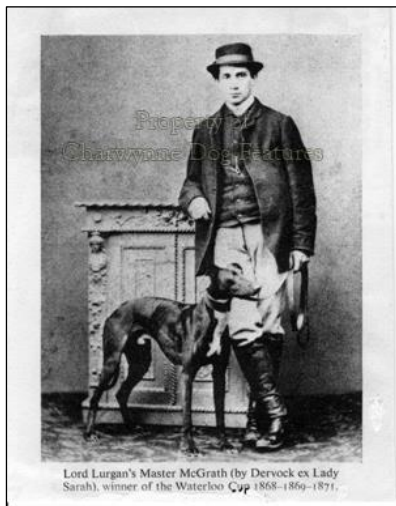
# Irish Greyhounds: from Legend to Commodity... to Beloved Pets at Long Last?

“The greyhound has a long and distinguished association with Ireland and played a major role in the life of the early Celts,” writes Marion Fitzgibbon of Limerick Animal Welfare. “The hound of the Celt accompanied his master to battle and fought at his side. He was his faithful companion known as the Cu Dilish in Gaelic. After battle, the Celtic greyhound shared the victory feast and invariably shared his master's bed.” In stark contrast, **today Irish greyhounds are “treated as disposable commodities,”** she



Bronze figure of a sighthound, 50 – 270 AD. Photo via Wikimedia Commons, courtesy of Rijksmuseum van Oudheden.

adds. They lack the usual protections afforded to household pets because this particular breed is classified as commercial livestock. (See *The Irish Times*, “When Is a Dog Not a Dog?” <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/tv-radio-web/when-is-a-dog-not-a-dog-when-it-s-an-irish-greyhound-1.3939314>.)



Master McGrath, born in 1866, is arguably the most famous Irish racing greyhound. He was the first triple winner of the Waterloo Cup. After his death in 1873 from heart disease, it was discovered that his heart was double the normal size.

The advent of Irish greyhound racing in the late 1800s, its popular growth into the 1900s, and the economics of breeding and betting changed the popular perception and treatment of the breed dramatically. But by far the biggest reason there is such a great need for rehoming Irish greyhounds abroad is the sheer volume of dogs bred each year.

Ireland is home to more than 15 active greyhound racing venues. It is

estimated that over 2000 greyhound litters are bred there each year, resulting in about 15,000 greyhound puppies annually, in a country that is comparable in size and population to the state of South Carolina. Even if greyhounds were popular as pets in Ireland, which they are not, such numbers could not be absorbed. As a result, far too many Irish greyhounds are disposed of, sold off, or simply discarded when they are no longer commercially useful. It is a desperate situation for local rescue groups, which do their best but can only find good homes for a small

percentage of the dogs that need them. While the Irish public is slowly gaining appreciation for the greyhound's potential as a wonderful family pet, rescue groups still rely heavily on overseas adoptions.

Irish rescue and rehoming groups work tirelessly to place as many greyhounds as they can locally, within the UK, and in other European countries. **But there are just not enough homes available for the Irish greyhounds in need.** While in the US many there are waiting lists of potential adopters wanting a greyhound, the shelters in Ireland have waiting lists of owners who have dogs they want to be rid of. If shelter space is not available in time, unwanted greyhounds end up dumped in pounds, sold down to countries with poor to nonexistent welfare standards (such as China, Pakistan, and Spain), or worse.

This year we have developed a close partnership with MADRA (Mutts Anonymous Dog Rescue and Adoption) in Ireland. **So far we have completed four transports of Irish greyhounds** in collaboration with Greyhound Rescue of New England, which places some of the arrivals as well.



A few of the Irish Greyhounds who came to Greyhound Friends this year: clockwise from top left, Kuro, Biba, Cormac, Callum, Feidhlim, Beanie, Kenji, Koala (now Kassie). Many thanks to the supporters and volunteers who made these transports possible.

It takes a lot of work logistically to make a transport happen. There are many regulatory and health requirements that need to be met, US customs and international travel requirements, and even custom built crates required by the airline.

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## Bright Spots and Highlights

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New Jersey, together with UK-based **Candy Candy Cane Rescue**. A major donor covered their substantial travel costs, to save their lives and also to raise awareness of the critical need for greyhound rescue in China. We were poised to receive three more rescued greyhounds from Beijing when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in mid-July, shut down the importation of dogs from 113 countries with minimal notice. China is on that list, as well as several countries in the Middle East where we were beginning to work with rescuers of greyhounds, salukis, and other desert sighthound breeds. A broad coalition of animal welfare organizations, animal law experts, expatriate dog owners, and other affected groups and individuals are working toward lifting the CDC ban, and we hope to resume our partnership work for greyhounds in the target countries in the coming year.



Top left, greyhound Darby (formerly Tao) in China after his rescue.

Top right, shortly after arrival at Greyhound Friends.

Bottom left, all smiles during enrichment time with Greyhound Friends volunteers.

Bottom right, relaxing with his dad at home. That happy face makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Nine Irish greyhounds came to us through a team effort with Irish groups **WAGI** and **MADRA**. We are ready to receive Irish dogs on a regular basis in 2022.

Working with **Bring Portuguese Podencos to Light**, we brought four lucky podencos to Greyhound Friends this year. This effort is logistically complex and takes much advance planning, but the need in Portugal is great, the dogs are lovely, and we will continue to help as we are able.



Irish greyhound Kassie (formerly Koala) at WAGI kennels, top left.

Enjoying a leash walk in the field at Greyhound Friends, top right.

With her new family on adoption day, bottom left.

Happy at home with her stuffed pal Rudolph, bottom right.

Work also continues with potential partners in Spain to help unwanted galgos – Spanish greyhounds – come to us for adoption. Even a few homed in the US help raise awareness and contribute to positive change for the dogs.



## Save the Date: Spring Open House

Greyhound Friends will hold its next **Spring Open House on Saturday, May 21, 2022**, 10 am to 3 pm. Please save the date and stay tuned for updates on our Facebook and Instagram accounts or by email (see page 4 to sign up or update your information).

Come and enjoy music, vendors, refreshments, raffles and a silent auction, fun contests, and a chance to visit with our kennel



Open House Remembrance Ceremony

residents. A Remembrance Ceremony in our Memorial Garden will commemorate the beloved dogs (and people) we have lost since the last time we were together, as is our custom at every Open House. **Please join us!**



## Remember a Special Pet

If you would like to have an engraved brick placed in the Greyhound Friends Memorial Garden in honor of a special dog (or other pet, or person), please

complete an order form at <https://qr.go.page.link/jPhJJ> (or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to be taken to the form). **Orders must be received by April 15, 2022 for placement before the May Open House.**



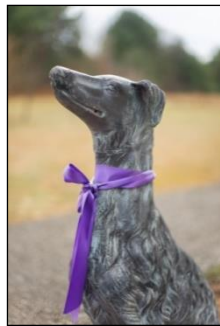
## Irish Greyhounds

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To minimize risk for the dogs, they are acclimated to their travel crates far in advance of their transport dates. Careful planning and follow-through are critical for a transport to succeed.

**Although there are costs involved in transporting dogs from overseas, especially during the pandemic, there are also offsetting savings.** For example, dogs coming in from US tracks need substantial vetting, which typically includes spay/neuter surgery, dentals, and often extended treatment for resistant hookworms that are becoming endemic in the US racing population. But Irish dogs come in fully vetted and ready to go home.

Each Irish greyhound coming to the US frees up a shelter or foster home spot in Ireland, for one more dog to be saved there. MADRA's Eileen Toomey wrote, "Yes indeed, as soon as [a transport of three] leave there are three more greyhounds ready to take their place and come off the ever increasing waiting list. Thank you all soooo much."



We are so grateful for the generous support of our donors who have made these life-saving transports possible.



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**Greyhound Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Financial and in-kind contributions are tax-deductible.**

## 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.



## Options Abound to Help the Dogs

**Can't write a big check to support a great cause? That's OK.** 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 – links are on our website.
- ✦ We are registered with Amazon Smile, ebay, and PayPal to receive a small donation when you make a purchase. Designate Greyhound Friends as your charity of choice.
- ✦ Does your employer match employee donations? This is a great way to increase the impact of your personal gift. We are registered with Benevity/Bright Funds, which many companies use to manage their matching gifts. We're happy to complete any forms your employer uses for their match program.
- ✦ If you're on Facebook, you can run a personal fundraiser to benefit Greyhound Friends – 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.
- ✦ Gifts of stock, annuities, or maturing investments can offset your tax liability.

## Want to Help Kick-Start 2022?

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

Please mail your check today or scan the code to make a secure credit card donation by PayPal at <https://greyhound.org>.



**Your support in any amount is welcome and deeply appreciated. Everything we do is thanks to you.**