

Letter from the Director

Dear friends,

Thank you all for another successful year! It's hard to believe **Greyhound Friends has been in existence for nearly 40 years**, evolving and adapting to the ever-changing environment of dog sheltering and rescue. Over the years, greyhound advocacy has shifted from the United States to focus more on international needs. Advocacy and adoption must continue in these regions to support this beautiful breed and its sighthound cousins, stressing the fundamental need for humane treatment.



Terri Shepard with a greyhound friend

Greyhound Friends is a shelter based organization, with our kennel and isolation facility located on a beautiful, secluded, seven acre piece of land. We maintain this property with its walking trails, fenced field, and turnout areas for the dogs – and humans – to enjoy. Several times a year, we host events here for education, reunions, and social gatherings. Prospective adopters come to spend time with the dogs and get to know them, allowing staff to answer questions and facilitate the dogs' transition from kennel to home. Staff, volunteers, and friends in the community enjoy many hours socializing with the dogs in our care.

The majority of our dogs are purpose bred: greyhounds, podencos, salukis, and southern hounds. Most of these dogs have previously lived in a working environment and have never been pets in a home. **One of our main areas of focus is to acclimate the dogs to living in a home as a member of their family.** We concentrate on leash walking, socializing, interactive play and basic house manners. Some dogs with a special need may go into foster care, but most are adopted directly from the kennel.

We are grateful for your ongoing friendship and for all the visitors who keep our shelter a vibrant and positive place. The dogs deserve all of the love, attention, and support we can give them.

Theresa Shepard

Theresa Shepard, CDT
Executive Director

Happy Holidays from Greyhound Friends!

We wish you all the magic of the season, with abundant joy, peace, and health in the New Year.



Loosened CDC Rules Allow International Rescue to Resume

In the summer of 2021, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) banned the import of dogs from 113 countries into the US. This included owned pets, commercial shipping, and the transport of rescue/shelter dogs for adoption.



Rylee is a meat trade survivor rescued in China and adopted through Greyhound Friends before the CDC import ban

Needless to say, the ban had a devastating effect on organizations like Greyhound Friends trying to bring in dogs for adoption from countries with no or few animal welfare protections, including salukis and other “desert dogs” in the Middle East and meat trade survivors in China. (The ban did not affect our ability to help dogs from Ireland and Portugal, because those countries were not among the 113 included in the ban.)

Earlier this year, the CDC amended its ban to allow the importation of rescue dogs from the 113 targeted countries with some new limitation and revised restrictions. There is now a new CDC permit requirement, in addition to some stricter USDA rules and guidelines that must be met, to the letter, for each transport.

Continued on page 3...

Community Friends Unite to Fund Needed Kennel Updates and Improvements

Greyhound Friends was fortunate this year to be approached by **Kristine Fox**, a local resident whose personal mission, in her own words, is “to make shelters’ dreams come true.” Kristine founded “Tine’s Wolf Pack,” a small organization of volunteers dedicated to **raising funds and recruiting in-kind donations to benefit animal shelters by meeting specific needs.**



Golf Ball Drop winners are announced. Professional Tree assisted with the aerial drop by Burt.

Kristine worked hard through the spring and summer to organize two golf events at the Whitinsville Golf Club, a tournament and a “golf ball drop” raffle, to raise funds for several capital improvement projects at our kennel. Alysha Anger of **Life Through a Shutter Photography** has been a key volunteer, supporting all the events.

Kristine also teamed up with local canine celebrities **Burt’s Brigade** and their human “Ma,” Gail Fairbanks. Burt the Chinese Crested and his furry sidekicks participated in many fundraisers and public appearances, alongside Kristine and Gail, generating goodwill, positive publicity, and generous donations toward the selected projects.

Improvements completed or in progress so far include:

- Attic insulation for the entire kennel building, to significantly reduce heating and cooling costs
- A donated ride-on mower to help reduce property maintenance costs
- Re-grading of the brick walkway to the Memorial Garden
- Adding outdoor electrical outlets for events
- Clearing brush and poison ivy along the driveway
- Laundry room remodeling for added storage space
- Purchase of an ERV air exchange unit for a state mandated quarantine room, where any dogs taken ill after entry can be separately cared for without infecting others in the kennel.



Kristine’s personal connections brought many local businesses to the effort. **We are especially grateful to**

KAC Insulators for not only completing the attic insulation work, but also **donating 100%** of the labor and materials. That was an amazing surprise, deeply appreciated. As a result, the funds could be applied to the quarantine room project, moving it forward ahead of schedule.

We also thank **Just Exterior of New England, Whitinsville Golf Club, Professional Tree, Dakai Lawn and Landscape, C & L Power Solutions, Victory Heating, Castinetti Realty Group, Paquette Designs, Nor’easter Blizzards, Landry Mechanical, and Sullivan Hardwood Floors** for their sponsorships and invaluable help with these projects.



Attic insulation project completed and generously donated by KAC Insulation. Thank you!

We are grateful to the many individuals and businesses who

donated funds, time, labor, merchandise, gift baskets and prizes to the various events held this year.

We also want to acknowledge the **generous prize winners who re-donated** some or all of their cash winnings back to Greyhound Friends.

Generosity has bred more generosity, all of it serving to help the dogs.

Kristine and her team have a list of additional large and small projects lined up for next year, with a winter poker tournament planned as part of the fundraising effort. Please stay connected through our mailing list and Facebook/Instagram for announcements and updates.



Greyhound Friends Is Named a 2022 Top-Rated Charity

Your positive reviews and shared stories have earned Greyhound Friends the 2022 Top Rated Charity seal from greatnonprofits.org.

Thank you so much!



New CDC Rules Allow International Rescue

...Continued from page 1



Darby (formerly Tao) was rescued in China from the cruel meat trade

For Greyhound Friends, this means that as we resume planning rescue transports with our partners in the affected countries, all members of the team will have to make sure that the new rules are strictly followed at every step of the process.

Looking back at

the dogs who came to us from China and the Middle East before the ban, and remembering their hard-fought success stories, **we are inspired, encouraged, and ready to bring more of these deserving survivors home to New England.**

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Two Ways to Memorialize a Lost Friend

A beautiful **Tree of Life** greets visitors in Greyhound Friends' reception area. Sculpted by local metal artist Eduardo Amaral, the tree and its engraved leaves are a lasting and meaningful memorial.

Now you can memorialize a loved one with their name on a hand-



wrought leaf to be installed on the tree. Leaves are \$300 each.

You might opt to have an engraved brick placed in the Greyhound Friends Memorial Garden in honor of a special dog (or other pet, or person).



Bricks are \$200 each, and are installed before the Spring Open House each year.

For an order form with details for either option, or both, please email greyhoundfriends.office@gmail.com.



Fergal was rescued in Qatar and found his home in New England

Community Events Draw a Crowd

This year Greyhound Friends hosted Spring and Fall Open Houses, as well as an August "Dog Day of Summer" event bringing together local dog lovers. Two other Hopkinton adoption groups, Baypath Humane Society and Brown Dog Coalition, joined us for the Dog Day event.



Fortunate to have ample outdoor space, we welcomed over 100 people to each event. The opportunity to be together with so many fellow "dog people," and happy dogs, is uniquely uplifting. Guests shared many positive comments about their visits and the renewed sense of community they experienced. We are already looking forward to hosting again in 2023!

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Volunteers Bring Fresh Energy

"I recently received a phone call from a young person asking about volunteer opportunities," says executive director Terri Shepard. "I asked if she was a high school student looking for community service hours, but she said no, she just wanted to help with the dogs. Then she told me she was 10. That surprised me."

"After I explained that volunteers under 16 must come with a parent, the call ended with a polite 'Thank you, goodbye.' A few moments later, her mother called me. And now Symphony comes once a week with her mom and sister to help with the dogs."



Symphony with greyhound Jack

"I was impressed with this girl's enthusiasm, maturity, and perseverance," Terri continues. "Symphony loves dogs and is passionate about helping others. She is eager to learn and assist with all kennel chores. She doesn't just play with the dogs, she interacts with them intentionally, responding to

Continued on page 4...

A Loss and a Legacy: Peter M. Bloom

In September we learned of the sudden passing of **Peter M. Bloom, former Greyhound Friends board member, treasurer, and volunteer.** Peter loved his greyhounds, the late Larry, Neil, and Candy, and salukis Gulliver and Gabby, who are now in the care of a friend. He was a kind person who contributed to causes he believed in, and he will be missed by his family and friends.

More than 10 years ago, Peter wrote a short piece for this newsletter about **legacy giving – creating a named bequest such as an endowment fund that will carry your compassion and commitment to help dogs into the future.** He cared deeply about the work of this organization and followed through with making it part of his legacy.

Peter has left a meaningful endowment gift to Greyhound Friends. In doing so he has ensured that he will also be remembered by many who never knew him personally.

Peter would want us to remind friends that **there are numerous ways to make a legacy gift, as a bequest or during your lifetime.** Please give us a call if you are interested in discussing some options to bring to your financial advisor or estate planning professional.



Peter Bloom with puppy Gabby, a saluki rescued in Qatar

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.



THE HOME STRETCH is a publication of Greyhound Friends, Inc., 167 Saddle Hill Road, Hopkinton, MA 01748. Phone: 508-435-5969 Email: info@greyhound.org

Find us online at <https://greyhound.org> (or scan the QR code). From there, easily follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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



Volunteers Bring Fresh Energy to the Work

...Continued from page 3

their signals and teaching them how to play nicely. She's a natural."

Board president Cathy DeNorscia volunteers at the kennel on Saturdays, alongside Hopkinton High School students Goutham, Kevin and Ragav. She says, "The boys take care of the dogs: turnouts, play time, socialization, leash walks, runs in the back field. They're learning all about dog behavior and training. And they help with all the kennel chores: cleaning the pens, doing dog laundry, using the leaf blower and mower on the property. I enjoy teaching them."

"But for me the best part," she adds, "is seeing them have a good time and play."

We are immensely fortunate to have these young people's energy as part of the Greyhound Friends organization.



Kevin and Goutham play with Clover; selfie time with Kevin and Irish greyhound Tadhg; Ragav enjoys a fall cleanup day



Help Dogs in Ways that Add Up

Can't write a big check to support a great cause? That's OK. Here are some other ways to help.

- ✦ Become a Monthly Sustainer to give a little at a time – just use the Donate button on our website.
- ✦ If you're on Facebook, you can run a personal fundraiser to benefit Greyhound Friends.
- ✦ We have kennel wish lists on Amazon.com and Chewy.com – links are on our website.
- ✦ Designate Greyhound Friends as your charity of choice with Amazon Smile, ebay, and PayPal and we'll receive a small donation whenever you make a purchase.
- ✦ Does your employer match employee contributions? Make a bigger impact whenever you give.

Your support makes a big difference.

A gift in any amount is welcome and deeply appreciated. Everything we do is thanks to you.

