

Letter from the Director

Dear friends,

What an outstanding year 2024 has been for Greyhound Friends. We have taken in homeless dogs from Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Australia, as well as domestic greyhounds and sighthounds. Just this past week we welcomed four new Irish greyhounds, and a transport from China is planned for January. Adoption interest has remained strong, and more dogs have found great homes than we had expected, since facility upgrades over the summer paused adoption operations for over a month.



Terri Shepard and friend

Thanks to your kind financial support, Greyhound Friends has been very successful in placing sighthounds throughout New England. This year we were called on by some local animal control officers who had sighthounds in need, and we were happy to help. Our focus on sighthound breeds

helps to maintain and grow a well matched adopter pool, which in turn prevents dogs from lingering too long in the kennel. Our dogs typically get adopted within a few weeks, and faster turnover allows us to help more dogs in need.

We could not operate without the amazing efforts of the small staff and many volunteers who work tirelessly every day for the dogs. When you visit, you will notice that everyone here has a relationship with each dog and will eagerly share all they know. We provide adopters with guidance and breed education in a comfortable environment when they come to meet and interact with the dogs, which helps assure the best fit for their lifestyle and the dogs' individual needs. Our rate of return is very low, which can be attributed to the time we spend to evaluate potential adopters and recommend the right match.

The "happy tails" success stories shared on our Facebook and Instagram pages are incredibly rewarding to see. This success would not be possible without you!

Theresa Shepard

Theresa Shepard, CDT
Executive Director



Happy Holidays, Dear Friends!

We wish you a bright holiday season, with abundant joy, peace, and good health in the New Year.



Good Things in a Smaller Package

You may have wondered why we stay relatively small, compared to other local adoption groups. There are several factors that make a smaller model better for our dogs.



Our kennel is currently equipped to house up to 15 dogs at a time. All the dogs we receive from outside Massachusetts must go through a state-required isolation process, and our facility can only isolate a few dogs at a time. While this is limiting, we have found that fewer dogs can receive more individualized care and a shorter stay before adoption.

Our kennels are immaculate, and the dogs get more attention than many do at home! We truly know our dogs, and that allows us to make better matches. Come visit the shelter: we think you will see the difference for yourself.



A Scout Steps Up in Service

Hopkinton High School senior Ragav Jeevanantham began volunteering at Greyhound Friends in his sophomore year, along with friends Kevin Zhu and Goutham Lakkireddy. Ragav has recently completed his Eagle Scout service project by planning and building a set of training steps for dogs waiting for adoption at the shelter.



L-R: project volunteers Muthu and Ragav Jeevanantham, Ganga Yerramsetti, Karen Bograd, Mac Rangwala, Ravi Jana. (Not pictured: Marshe Kassed, Evan McDaniel, Ryan McDaniel, Gideon McFarland, Kaizgar Rangwala, Ezra Vanguri.)

some dogs are a little afraid of. Training can improve their chances to be adopted.”

Greyhound Friends executive director Terri Shepard explained, “Not only are the kennel dogs learning some new skills, they’re also gaining confidence and benefiting from a fun new activity in their day. This is such a big help to us.”

Longtime shelter volunteer and past president Cathy DeNorscia oversaw the planning and construction. “I’m so thankful that the incredible Hopkinton High School volunteers and the parents from Boy Scout Troop #1 built this amazing ramp and stairs,” she added.



Hopkinton High students and shelter volunteers Kevin Zhu and Goutham Lakkireddy assisted with the project.

Asked why he chose this particular project, Ragav said “I love dogs and feel a strong connection to them, so I wanted to provide something that could help them.

Now we can teach them how to go up and down stairs, which

Save the Date for Events in 2025

Spring Open House on May 17 will feature field runs, contests, kennel tours, vendors, a silent auction and raffle, placement of memorial bricks and our traditional Remembrance Ceremony.

“Dog Day of August” on August 23 celebrates

International Dog Day with some summer fun. Local dog lovers and other adoption groups are invited, with vendors offering products and services for dogs and dog people.



Fall Open House on September 20 will add a fun costume contest to the slate of activities.

Please save the dates and plan to join us for friendship and fun! (Rain dates may be announced as needed.)



How You Can Help Dogs Right Now

Even if you cannot adopt a homeless hound now, or write a big check to save them all, here are some ways you can still make a big impact:



- ✦ **A donation in any amount** is appreciated and helps dogs in a meaningful way – especially now, at year end.
- ✦ Become a **Monthly Sustainer** to give a little at a time – just use the Donate button on our website.
- ✦ Running a **personal fundraiser** to benefit Greyhound Friends brings new gifts and also raises awareness.
- ✦ 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 Ebay and PayPal.
- ✦ Use an **employer match** to make a bigger impact whenever you give.
- ✦ Lend your skills as a **volunteer** – help is needed with a range of projects with flexible time commitments; some can be done remotely. Please email to inquire or check current needs at www.greyhound.org.



Your kind support saves lives: one dog at a time.

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Hard Work Pays Off with “Happy Tails”

The need for sighthound adoption is pressing, and the work can seem never-ending. Even so, nothing lifts our spirits and fuels our resolve more than seeing our adopted dogs happy, healthy, and often plain silly in their loving homes. **When adopters send “pupdates” we eagerly post them on our social media pages so supporters can share in the joy.** Here are just three from this year.

Momo had been adopted from a group that no longer exists. When his owner had a major change in life circumstances and could no longer care for him, he was surrendered to us in February, at age 8. Staff noticed that he was lethargic, even for an older grey, and vet work revealed an advanced stage of Lyme disease.



Momo upon arrival

We began treatment right away, but Momo suffered some setbacks in his recovery. The Lyme had begun to cause kidney damage, and rounds of additional medication were required before he finally turned a corner. Donations to the Medical Needs Fund made his recovery possible.



A happy Momo after treatment

Momo is doing well now in his permanent home. He visits the kennel often and shows off his happy zoomies in the big fenced field.

Indy is a survivor of the infamous Chinese meat trade. Rescued by our amazing partners there, he waited more than 2 years in kennels, through the pandemic’s transport moratorium, until being permitted to travel to the US. It was noted in China that he had some issues with his

eyesight, and vet checks revealed some significant impairment. It was not obvious, though, in the way he navigated our shelter and runs and interacted with both people and other dogs.



Indy at home

Indy was adopted into a home with a greyhound and two feline residents, and he fit right in seamlessly. We love seeing his Instagram updates, lounging in all the sunny spots and modeling an array of handsome new collars. His vision is very limited, but he continues to manage very well in his familiar environment.

A big surprise came when Indy’s adopters shared his canine DNA results. The test revealed a mix of 15 breeds, including not only greyhound and chart Polski (a Polish greyhound cousin) but also German shepherd, some rare Asian breeds, and 6% wolf! He truly is a very special dog.



An upside-down dog is a happy dog: Reese gets silly in his big comfy bed.

Reese is an American ex-racing greyhound, one of several we were pleased to bring in this year. Jeb is a personable, playful young dog who seemed to genuinely appreciate the comforts he enjoyed during his stay at the shelter.

Unlike the thoroughly vetted dogs coming from overseas, domestic greyhounds arrive in need of spay/neuter surgeries and other basic veterinary care. Reese went home soon after his procedures. His adopter sent photos and wrote, “He is doing so great! Very much a mellow love bug.” Reese’s happiness shows in his big toothy grin, and it brings us joy to see him loving his life!

Did You Know?

Greyhound Friends’ Educational Outreach Team visits schools, after-school programs, scouts and other groups to present about sighthound adoption. To request a visit please email greyhoundfriends.office@gmail.com.



Legacy Gifts Secure a Stronger Future

A bequest of funds or securities can help ensure that Greyhound Friends will continue helping dogs in years to come, even with economic ups and downs. For information on designating a legacy gift to Greyhound Friends please email us at greyhoundfriends.office@gmail.com.



Scout Builds Training Steps to Help Dogs

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"I'm really grateful for all the adults and scouts who came to help out," Ragav added. He had prepared and presented a detailed project proposal, recruited volunteers, and raised funds to cover the project's expenses.

Board president Michael Simon commented, "The Eagle Scout service project must be one that benefits the community, and one that demonstrates the scout's ability to plan, budget time and money, provide leadership, and give direction to others. Ragav has certainly accomplished these objectives. We appreciate everyone's hard work to help our dogs adapt to home life faster."



Watch for Winter FUNdraisers

After the year-end gifts are in (and we hope you'll be counted among those who contribute before 2024 comes to a close), we have a little fun in the slow winter months to keep the Greyhound Friends community engaged.



On January 18-20 we're trying something new: **A Blind Date with a Book.** Friends are invited to stop in on those days, buy a wrapped book knowing only a few sentences about the content, then enjoy the surprise with a nice hot drink on a chilly winter night. Fun!

Then through the month of February, we'll hold our annual **Hearts for Houndies** event. To send some love to the pups waiting for homes at the shelter, you can put your name on a heart to be displayed at the kennel for all to see. Buy a heart (or several) and include how you would like your name written on it. We'll do the rest, and post pictures.

Please watch for complete event details when you visit <https://greyhound.org> and follow our social media pages (links are on the website too!).



Please Stay In Touch!

We post new dogs, adoptions, news and information on our **social media pages.** Please follow Greyhound Friends there to stay connected, enjoy dogs' stories, and share to help promote adoptions. **On Facebook, you'll find us at www.facebook.com/GreyhoundFriendsIncMA/ and on Instagram we are @greyhoundfriends.**



Direct links are on our website, www.greyhound.org.

We mail only 1-2 newsletters each year to keep operating costs down. But we'd love to be in touch more often by email.

Please sign up (or update your information) for email to stay updated between mailings. To complete a secure form just scan this QR code with your phone and follow the prompts.



Remember a Loved One with a Tree of Life Leaf or Memorial Garden Brick



In the Memorial Garden next to the kennel building, engraved bricks bear the names of beloved dogs (and people) who were part of the extended Greyhound Friends family.

A beautiful Tree of Life mural sculpture greets visitors in Greyhound Friends' reception area. Engraved leaves on the tree are a lasting and meaningful memorial.

To remember a loved one with their name engraved on a hand-wrought leaf or a garden brick, please email greyhoundfriends.office@gmail.com for details and an order form.



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Find us online at <https://greyhound.org> (or scan the QR code).

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