Greyhound Rescue Foundation of TN

Spring 2010

www.greyhoundrescue.org

Saving Lives and Finding Homes ...
One Greyhound at a Time.

Adoptions to Date - 800+
Adoptions First Quarter 2010 - 38

Together, We DO Make A Difference

Special points of interest:

* Birmingham Rescues
* Prevent "Hot" Dog
* Summer Tips and Precautions
* Upcoming Events
* "I Rescued A Human Today"
* Miscellaneous
* Fostering
* Our Mission

We Were Featured in the News Sentinel with our Birmingham Rescues

Birmingham Rescues - Check Out the Following Article that Appeared in the Knoxville News Sentinel on March 10, 2010

Greyhound Rescue Foundation of Tennessee, (GRFT), www.greyhoundrescue.org volunteers Brenda and Rhonda pick up newly retired racing Greyhounds at the Birmingham Race Track to be placed in Foster care. These five young x-racers are among the approximate **800** Greyhounds that have gone through GRFT Foster homes and into the loving permanent homes.

Greyhound Rescue Foundation of Tennessee volunteers Brenda and Rhonds pick up recently retired racers from the Birmingham Race Course to be placed in foster care. GRFT has help approximately 800 retired racers in less than 10 years as a 501(c)3 Greyhound Family

Newly retired Greyhounds are placed in GRFT foster homes to be evaluated, profiled, taught things like steps, mirrors, house manners and how to live with a family.

GRFT adheres to a 100% spay/neuter policy before adoption as well as shots are up to date, heartworm testing and teeth cleaning have also been completed.

Meet and Greets with the available Greyhounds are held at PetSmart on Morrell Road in Knoxville on the second Saturday of each month. Before the adoption can be completed an application is required as well as a home visit with the Greyhound. Check www.greyhoundrescue.org for the available Greyhounds, the events scheduled and call a representative if you need more information. Greyhound Rescue Foundation of Tennessee is a 501 ©3 Non Profit organization.

Greyhounds are at higher risk for overheating and heat stroke than other breeds!

Prevent a "Hot" Dog

As the weather warms, Greys need to be exercised (walking and/or running) more moderately during the early morning or the later evening when the sun is less intense and the temps are cooler. Remember, dogs "sweat" only through panting and their foot pads, so unlike the human cooling mechanism of sweating through skin, dogs heat up much more quickly than we do. Greyhounds' physiology also puts them at higher risk for overheating and heat stroke than other breeds ... i.e., their body

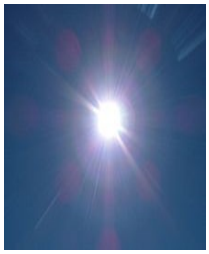
Heat stroke is an emergency, and it can be *fatal* to your Grey within minutes!

temps rise faster than other breeds. Panting works to cool the dog through evaporation, but panting only works for a short time. Prolonged panting can critically upset the metabolic system and lead to heat stroke or hyperthermia. The likely symptoms one may notice are:

- laborious panting;
- drooling;
- dilated pupils;
- bright red tongue and gums;
- the tongue may be swollen and appear "foamy";
- the inside of the ears will also appear red, not pink;
- the dog will likely feel very hot to the touch;
- the dog may exhibit profound weakness or inability to stand.

If you think your Grey is experiencing heat stroke, remove him from direct sunlight and into a cool place. Then begin immediate cooling with water and/or wet towels. Using wet towels and air conditioning together increases evaporation and aids in rapid cooling. Move your Grey to your vehicle as soon as possible. **Call ahead to the vet's office so they are prepared for your arrival**. **Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency** and can be ***fatal*** to your Grey within minutes if not properly treated.

Tips and Precautions for Safely Enjoying the Summer



Warm Weather Tips!!!!

To avoid a serious situation, here are a few warm weather tips and reminders:

- Greyhounds sometimes enjoy a kiddie pool to lounge in and cool off. Remember to keep fresh water in the pool to avoid hot water or mosquito breeding.
- If you don't have a kiddie pool available and your Grey gets too warm, find a hose and run the water over the major blood carrying arteries ... underneath areas of hind legs, forelegs and chest. Let the hose run for 30-40 seconds to clear standing water in the hose, as it can get to scalding temps during the day. Hose water generally isn't cold enough to shock the system, however, if you are dealing with a severely overheated dog and are doing this as a stop gap measure, avoid running water directly on the back as applying very cold water can cause various types of shock.
- Remember that if your Grey really loves to run and play, he may not have the sense to stop when he's had enough, so intervene before he gets seriously overheated.
- Always have water available when walking (or running) your Grey and offer it to him often.
- Consider carrying a spray bottle filled with ice water to spray your Grey with ... again, this relies on evaporation for cooling, and it isn't the most efficient system, but it does provide some relief. Rather than soaking down the fur, spraying only their undersides will ultimately give more relief.

Greyhounds Can Get Sunburned!

- If your Grey appears overheated and you have no access to a hose or kiddie pool, bathtubs work too. Use cool, not the coldest, water so you don't shock them, and again avoid soaking the entire body, focusing on legs and undersides where main arteries run.
- Greyhounds can get sunburned. They have very short, thin coats, and as we all know, some of them have bald butts, bellies and necks! If your Grey (especially if white or light colored, or has bald spots) is going to be out in the sun for any length of time, use sunscreen. Wild Oats and Vitamin Shoppe carries natural sunscreens that won't cause harm if licked off.
- While we wear athletic shoes, our Greys have only their foot pads; remember asphalt heats up fast! Don't make your Grey stand still on it, and don't walk them for great lengths on unshaded pavement.
- NEVER leave your Grey in your car, even in the shade with the windows cracked, once the temps get to 70º. On a 75-80º day, the interior temp of your car can rise to above 150º in just minutes. If you must leave your Grey in the car to run into the store, leave the car running, a/c on, and the car locked!!!
- Consider adding Pedialite or "Stress Dex" to your Grey's water in the summer after exercising. This will add needed electrolytes back into his system. A newer item also available at places like Entirely-Pets.com and other online retailers is K9 Hydration Tabs. These are inexpensive and easy to administer— a good investment for every first aid kit!!!
- Some Greys are more sensitive to the sun. Black Greyhounds will feel the heat more sharply than those with lighter colored coats.

The number one lesson of exercise in the summer … use common sense. If your hound walks with you every day, he can acclimate some to the warmer temps, but will still need water on walks, and slower, shorter walks at the "coolest" (a relative term in the south) times of the day. This year I'm finding with the sudden rise in temps, my hounds are having a more difficult time acclimating than in recent years. And, just like people, every hound's tolerance is different. Listen to your hound!!!

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for the 10th Annual GRFT Family Reunion!

Meet and Greets with the available Greyhounds are held:

- at PetSmart on Morrell Road in Knoxville on the second Saturday of each month
- at PetSmart in Johnson City on the fourth Saturday of each month.

October 2, 2010 — 10th Annual GRFT Family Reunion at Louisville Point Park. You can be guaranteed good food, games, silent auction, raffles and wonderful fellowship. Contact us for additional information.

I Rescued A Human Today

"I rescued a human today.

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels.
I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her.

I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage.
I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today.
Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.
As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past.
I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me.
I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her.
Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship.
A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms.
I would promise to keep her safe.
I would promise to always be by her side.
I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.

I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor.

So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors.
So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today."

(author unknown)

Miscellaneous

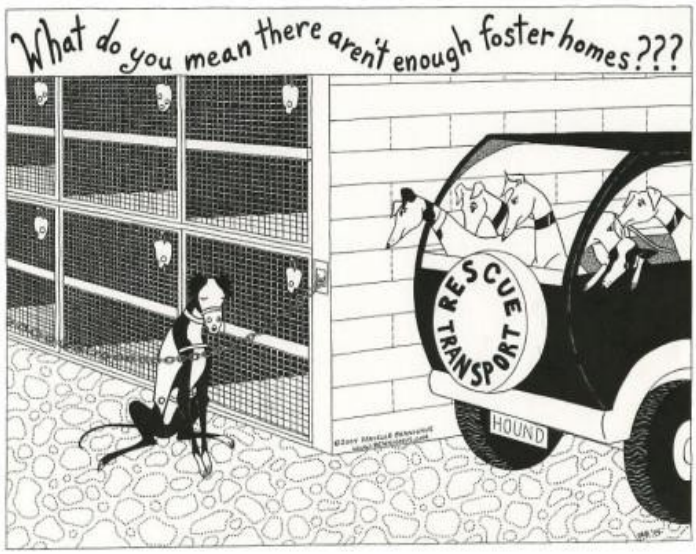
- We would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to all of our volunteers who make our mission possible!!!
- To look at your Greyhound's race record, ancestors, birth date, etc. go to http://www.greyhound-data.com/.

Fostering

Do you love greys? Of course, you do! Who wouldn't? Would you consider fostering … even just one greyhound? Think of the number of greyhounds we could save if over the next year, each family that has adopted from us opens its home to just one foster? Fostering is a very rewarding experience. Will you be that one more foster home so that "Left Behind" can begin retirement in style?

It only takes patience and understanding, lots of love, and a little travel and food. What a difference you can make!

If you are a Greyhound adopter in our area and have room in your heart, please contact us to discuss fostering.



Cartoon courtesy of www.bennignus.com

Our Mission

Greyhound Rescue Foundation of Tennessee is a state chartered not-for-profit all volunteer organization whose mission is five-fold:

1. **To educate the general public about the availability and suitability of retired racing Greyhounds as pets.**
2. **To medically treat each Greyhound that comes into our program, including but not limited to spay/neuter, all shots, heartworm testing, and any other treatment deemed needed.**
3. **To find loving and qualified homes for all Greyhounds entrusted to us.**
4. **To offer ongoing support to those who adopt Greyhounds.**
5. **To promote harmony and cooperation between all segments of the worldwide Greyhound community.**