

Greyful for Another Year

by Robyn Stone



It's hard to believe that 2015 is already coming to a close. Thanks to your support and generosity, KCREGAP has been able to continue our mission which is:

To find for as many greyhounds as possible - without consideration for their age, health, disabilities or

circumstances - their forever homes, while maintaining a high quality of care, safe and superior housing and appropriate adoption standards.

In 2015, more than 50 greyhounds came to KCREGAP through various means. Some came through contacts with greyhound farms in Abilene, where the dogs return after they are no longer raced, or remained if they never raced. Others were found in shelters where they had been left by former owners, or were taken as strays. Some were relinquished to KCREGAP by families who either were unable or unwilling to continue to care for them. Staying true to our mission, we welcomed many dogs with known health issues or concerns, who we knew would require more time and resources before being placed in their forever homes. We had several dogs come to us this year with broken legs, including Chief, Aladdin, Bates, and Dexter. Both Chief and Bates had surgery to repair their fractures, with months of regular veterinary follow ups and bandage changes. Aladdin did not have surgery, but did have to endure a cast and multiple follow ups with the vet. We also took in several dogs with significant health issues, such as Nova who was a case of "failure to thrive," was anemic, and weighed around 40 pounds when she came to us. Dasher came to KCREGAP about a year ago from a shelter south of Wichita, and was lucky to find a foster home with Cher and Dan Mroz. Dasher has had multiple significant health issues since that time, requiring multiple trips to the vet, specialists, and K-State. Nova and Dasher are lucky to have volunteers like Julie Bates and

Jackie & Chet Whitford, who helped transport these pups to vet visits, including trips to K-State, and even cooked meals for Nova to entice her to eat. The pups are also lucky to have the amazing staff at Pooches Paradise, like Kat Brower loves and cares for the greys as if they were all hers, and "pack leader" Joe Giammanco who goes above and beyond for KCREGAP and the greyhounds.

KCREGAP is very lucky to have caring and dedicated volunteers who were willing to transport these special pups to KCREGAP, provide foster homes, and transport them to vet appointments. All of these pups have since found their forever homes and are enjoying their second chance for a happy life.

Thank you to the volunteers, donors, foster and forever families who believe that every greyhound deserves the opportunity to know a safe and loving home.

2015 saw 41 greyhounds find their forever homes. We would like to congratulate these families:

Ayla Gregg & Sharon Loeser
Banini..... Drew & Lisa Wilson
Bates & Mollie..... Jessica Lowe & Joel Geran
Cain Ken & Kim Lieb
Cassidy Stephanie & Andrew Buck
Celia Kathy & Harry Knoche
Chief Steffen & Ryan Shamburg
Cinder Chet & Jackie Whitford
Clyde & Omar Ann Cook & Daniel Leathers
Dante Bob & Deanne Zuch
Dexter & Jasper.. Nicki Gustin
Dilbert Rae & Matt Whitney
Emma John & Dawn Merrill
Emma Sherri & Ron Rice
Fiona..... Rex & Rosalie Fox
Heigl Kevin Smith
Jett Doug Riley & Michael Dowell
Kendall Denise Knight
Linde Dan & Julie McCorkindale

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Dog Number Two

Neil Brogan - Northern Greyhound Adoptions

The dog before me shudders and recoils in fear at the sight of my outstretched hand. He trips as he backs away from me, panicking and turning to bolt back to his kennel only to realize that the door is shut. Cowering, he slinks into a nearby corner and makes himself small.

The look of terror in his eyes tells me he's convinced that I want to do him harm, and my heart breaks a little as I do what I know I must, turning away, pretending not to notice or care.

He needs space, and as badly as I want to wrap my arms round him and tell him everything is ok, I have to balance my desire to heal with his need for time to understand and trust his circumstances. Ferdinand is completely overwhelmed by life in the kennel and all it entails, and frankly, he's just not coping well. Tempted as I am to snatch him up and take him home, I know he would be overwhelmed by our rowdy pack. I have also heard a rumor about a potential home, so I make a mental note to follow up and usher our frightened friend back in to the relative safety of his temporary home, his kennel.

My next visit is with Horatio, or, for the sake of today's story, dog number one. He is a favorite: I can see a happy canine waiting just beneath the surface, he only needs someone to bolster his confidence. When that happens he will be transformed nearly overnight. For now, however, he's easily spooked and not terribly trusting. He is very submissive – so much so that the other male dogs have been using him for target practice during turnouts. His normally white coat is almost entirely urine stained. He desperately needs a bath, so I leash him and walk out of the kennel, across the parking lot to our SUV.

My wife is awaiting us in the parking lot. She's negotiated a dozen free baths with a local pet store, and we're here to grab a couple of kennel occupants to whisk them away for a spa treatment. Or at least that's what we tell them. When dog number one is secured safely in the back of the SUV I close the hatch, go back inside and locate lucky dog number two. "Donald" seems relatively laid back, and waits patiently as I locate a leash and slowly guide him



through the kennel and out to the parking lot. He springs easily in to the back of our waiting vehicle, landing next to dog number one and giving him a friendly nudge to say hello.

With both dogs muzzled and ready for the journey, we hit the road and head south toward Burlington. The weather (prone to frequent and unpleasant changes) has taken a turn for the worse and the highway is slick with freezing rain that pelts the windshield, forcing us to maintain a slow, steady, safe pace. I turn on NPR, hoping for a weather forecast that includes any kind of improvement. It's wishful thinking.

A few miles later I glance at the rear-view mirror and notice that dog number one is pacing in the back of the SUV. He looks distressed, like he's trying to find a way to escape. I consider pulling over, notice that the entire breakdown lane has glazed over with ice and quickly abandon that idea, instead refocusing on the road while searching the radio dial for music suitable for dog bathing transports.

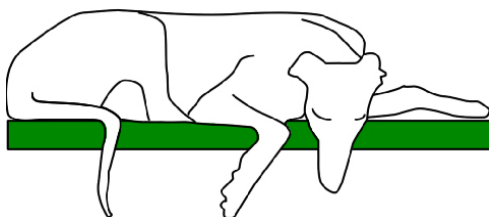
The noise that interrupted me was something like a cross between a whimper and a groan. Dog number one had reached the end of his rope. I glanced up at the mirror just in time to witness

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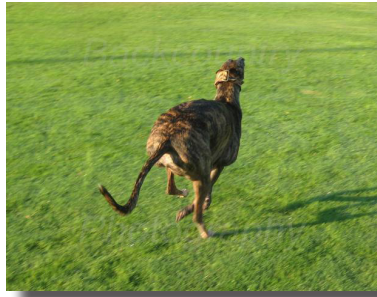
- LucyLiu** Julie & Dale Bates
- Luther** Chelsea Braun
- Mona** Brian Spoonemore & Michael Morris
- Nelly & Nolan** John & Charlene Osborn
- Nevah** Paige Hinshaw
- Noah** Rob & Ingrid VanBiber
- Noir** Linda Castro
- Nova** Jennifer & Tom Long
- Rhyia** Dave & Tracey Allen-Ehrhart
- Ripken** Meg Babani
- Roma** Leslie Grimes
- Saturn** Mary Bilson
- Siris** Carla Manthei
- Skylar** Beth Andes
- Smoke** Gerrie Meyer
- Tilly** Les & Mary Jones
- Tyler** Lee Rathbone-McCuane
- Vivi** Chris & Redena Schmidt



Keep Your Grey Safe in 2016

Many things are destined to change, such as the lifecycle of the beloved greyhounds who so gratefully enter and gracefully leave our earthly homes. Some things should never change, such as the commitment we make to ensure our Greyhound's safety when signing KCREGAP's Adoption Contract.

KCREGAP rescues greyhounds to help save lives, not risk lives. We conduct thorough pre-adoption home visits to ensure the greyhounds are adopted into safe homes. And, by receiving your signed Adoption Contract, KCREGAP trusts that as an adoptive family, you will keep every



promise that you made in the adoption agreement.

This includes never allowing your sight hound off-leash. It means allowing your grey to live in your comfy, cozy, cooled and warmed homes. And, it means keeping your grey fenced to protect them from dangers unknown.

People's habits may change, but sighthound habits typically don't. Humans can see potential dangers, but greyhounds won't. So, please keep your promise to your grey-baby, and don't risk the unthinkable. Let's keep our babies safe by keeping them on leash, or fenced, so that we can always know that the rescue was worth the effort.

Dog Number Two

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him backing up in to that all-too-familiar crouch. It was craptime, and I watched in horror as my passenger dropped his pants. I know, I know – but if they did wear them, this would be the moment.

The substance that subsequently emanated from the rear of dog one was the most unholy, atrocious, stomach turning poop soup this dog owner has ever encountered. It was loud, it was liquid, and it was abundant. As he finished his number two, dog number one looked at me in the mirror and quickly glanced away. I thought he felt guilty. I was very wrong.

With our destination over ten miles away and the breakdown lane too treacherous to allow for a stop and scoop, our options were limited. Hell, our options were just one: to keep driving the shitwagon south on the interstate with the windows rolled down while an arctic breeze whipped freezing rain through the vehicle. From his perch on the back seat, dog number two watched all of this with what looked like fascination, squinting to protect his eyes as another sheet of precipitation pelted us.

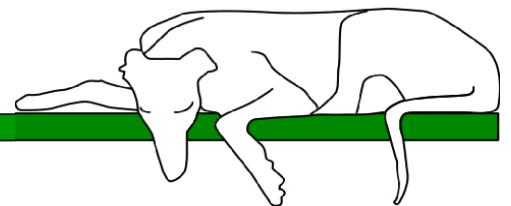
To say that the remainder of our drive felt longer than it should have would be an understatement. It felt longer than my entire life to date. We alternated, rolling the windows up for a minute to break the chill, quickly rolling them all down again when the retching started, and cursing dog number one all the way. Dog number one took no notice. Instead, he decided to engage his artistic

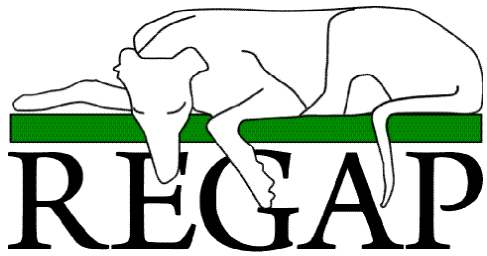
leanings, taking the tip of his muzzle, dipping it in his pile of putrescence, and effectively poo-painting any surface available to him, dotting bits of shit on the walls, the floor, the ceiling. He was thorough. He was merciless.

With our noses plugged we made our way off the highway and eventually wound through town. I was overcome with relief when I saw the sign for the pet store that was our final destination. Dog number two was also overcome – not with relief, mind you, but with nausea: while I waited for traffic to clear in order to make the left turn in to the parking lot, he stood, tilted his head, and unleashed a hot stream of projectile vomit across the entire back seat of the vehicle.

I'll spare you the disgusting details that made up the remainder of that unfortunate evening. Let's just say that they were very brown. I was already elbow deep in it when my wife came out of the store with a few employees who had heard about our hellish journey, were sympathetic and had offered assistance. Horrified by what they witnessed, the store employees who had a look at the damage handed my wife a roll of paper towels, wished us luck and quickly walked away. I don't blame them: we spent hours cleaning the truck only to realize that the smell remained. A subsequent trip to a detailing shop did much to diminish that, as did air fresheners and sprays, but no matter the method of cleaning employed, the faintest hint of Horatio still lingers to this day.

Many months have passed since we made that fateful drive. I often find myself wondering where Horatio is, and what has become of him. One thing is certain: I will never forget him.





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Return Service Requested

2015 Financial Highlights

We've had another busy year, with over 50 greys coming through our organization! However, the extensive health issues have increased our veterinarian expenses by 30% in 2015 compared to 2014. Our fundraising efforts have grown 11% this year thanks to all our generous members and fundraising efforts, but unfortunately it's not enough to cover the increased costs. Thus far in 2015, we are running at a deficit and we really need your help and generosity.

Below are our historical costs for the last four years:

Year	# of dogs	Avg. cost/dog
2012	39	\$763
2013	34	\$713
2014	48	\$483
2015	50	\$779

More racetracks are expected to close in 2016 which will leave a lot of racers looking for their own forever home. Please help KCREgap help them. Make a year-end donation and also consider becoming a Greyhound Guardian by visiting kcregap.org today.

KCREgap Expense Breakdown:

Expense Type	% of all expenses
Veterinarian expenses	54%
Boarding/food/supplies	34%
Fundraising expenses	8%
All other	4%
Total	100%

