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Believing in Kismet

by Denise Knight

I've never believed in fate. But I've always believed that everything happens for a reason, and our paths cross either to help others or to be helped by others. Within the past year, I was faced with several extremely difficult choices. My choices, while for the best, left a huge hole in my heart and a huge hole in my home.

My grey-girl Lela (small in stature, huge in personality), and I had shared a special connection to one another – like our souls were bound together. I wasn't ready to lose my Lela-Lou, but when she passed, I knew that she was making room for another. Somehow I "knew" it would be for a girl. And I "knew" that she would be strong and feisty like Lela (someone needed to keep my two remaining "cowboys" in line)!

I was in no hurry to find a new grey. I only "knew" that I was to wait for the right one, and "knew" that I would be pointed in the right direction when the time came. Then one day, I learned by email of 3 lurcher rescues found in the Kansas oil fields – Karma, Kismet and Kade. At that moment, I "knew" that one, a girl, was the one. Sight unseen, I inquired as to which one was the feisty girl, and was told it was Kismet. I "knew" at that moment that she to be my new girl.



Kismet had Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and it took weeks before her blood counts improved sufficiently for her spay. In the meantime, I suffered two more huge losses. It was the week before GreyheART, and thankfully I could spend that week focusing on the event and not on my loss. Still waiting for Kismet to come home, I spent as much time in the kennel with her as I could, in-between item-schlepping and event set-up that week. Meeting Kismet for the first time that week brought unexpected joy to my soul. She was the most playful, joyous full-of-life grey I had ever met. I played with her and I cried with her in that back room. She was my savior.

face, this angel had come home to help me forget my pain, and was figuratively wearing my two black "holes" on her sweet face.

Things happen in their own good time, and we really do cross paths to help one another. I never believed in fate, but now, with all of my heart, I do believe in Kismet.

The day after GreyheART, Kismet passed her blood test and was able to be spayed. She came home the following weekend – my first full weekend home alone. She kissed, licked, bathed me, teased me, stole my shoes, stole my clothes, ate my phone, and made me belly-laugh. She was an angel who could do no wrong - all white, with two large black spots (black holes) on her

GreyNews

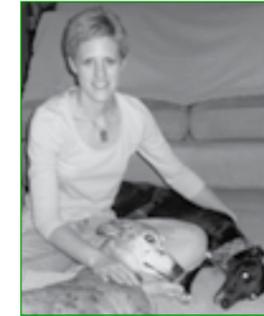


November '14

The newsletter of

Greytful for Another Year

by Robyn Stone



It's hard to believe that 2014 is already coming to a close. Thanks to your support and generosity, KREGAP 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 2014, we took in 42 greyhounds who came to KREGAP 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 KREGAP by families who either were unable or unwilling to continue to care for them. A few were found as strays by caring folks who contacted KREGAP. Staying true to our mission, we welcomed many dogs with known health issues or concerns, who we knew may be difficult to place in forever homes. These dogs included senior greyhounds such as nine year old Clyde and Omar, littermates who had been together their entire lives, whose owner was unable to keep them. Two year old Valentino came to us with weakness in his hind end, likely caused by spinal stenosis, though his personality is quite strong. Three greyhound lurcher (greyhound mix) pups--Kade, Kismet and Karma--were found wandering in an oil field in Southwest Kansas, emaciated and in urgent need of veterinary care. Because of the kindness of strangers, and dedicated KREGAP volunteers, these pups are now happy, healthy and much-loved family members in their new forever homes.

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.

2014 saw **38 greyhounds find their forever homes**. We would like to congratulate these families:

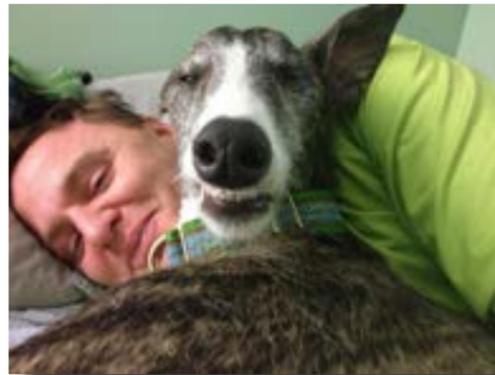
James, Susan & Ivy Schank **Jordy**
Chuck & Sandy Edwards **Snoop**
Jim & Louise Williams **Rain**, now Kennedy
Marvin Gregg **Linus**
Mary Bilson **Snoopy**, now Sapazhok
Debra Ore **Gryffindor**
Jennifer Brucker & Mark Bush **Ember & Schroeder**
Andrew & Stephanie Buck **Hope**
Dan & Cher Oliver Mroz **Tucker**, now Hendrix
Melinda Neer **Penny**, now Eve
Trent, Vicki & Hannah Howerton **Sally**
Curtis & Staci Dekat Cloud, now Ramsey, & **Tiffany**
Maja & Jim Cummings **Beemer**
Pam, Chad, Jaedha & Leighton Godwin **Goliath**
Chris Shanklin **Charlie Brown & Ambrosia**, now Amber
Doug Riley & Michael Dowell **Bolt**, now Jake
Doneva Snow, Phillip Boldridge, Ashley & Anthony George
Willie
Kathie McElhinney **Aster**, now Brody
Erin & Steve Blocker **Pita & Lilac**
Rob & Laura Sanderson **Dutch**, now Howard Dutchman
Ruth Sadasivan **Abby**
Kyle & Cynthia Burris **Pearl**
Robyn Stone & Pete Maharry **Valentino**, now Happy
Sarah Hines **Morgan**
Lori & Anthony Miller **Dew**
Holly Korges **Kade**, now Kain, **Cookie**, now Lucy
Landon Wedermyer & Laura Mertz **Dahlia**
Tom & Jennifer Long **Tempe**, now Phoebe
Peter & Mara Wallace **Hudson**
Michael, Brianna, Porter & Elijah Bickley **Karma**, now Leia
Jacquie Means & Julie Westlund **Dauntless**, now Dante
Denise Knight **Kismet**
Gregg & Sharon Loeser **Kaydee**

Thank you to all of these families who opened their hearts and their homes to these lucky pups!

From Loss to Lurcher

by Mat Bickley

During one week in the summer of 2012, my wife and I had to put down two of our dogs, both sight hounds (a whippet and a Sloughi) for separate health issues - the first dog on Monday and the other on Friday. As you can imagine, it was a very hard time for us and there were several bottles of wine decimated that week as we came to terms with our loss. Frodo, our old man Cardigan Welsh Corgi, became our sole canine companion. Frodo had never been a "single" dog and it would break our heart to leave him alone, as he would howl in loneliness when we left. My wife wanted to get another dog shortly after we lost our two sight hounds, but I wasn't ready. It was too soon and too hard and I kept putting her off wanting to wait "just a few more months." It just so happened that we went on vacation and were staying in a cabin when one night my wife, Sherri, saw a Greyhound puppy on REGAP's Facebook page that was up for adoption. She pounced! "They never have puppies for adoption, we always talked about getting a greyhound and you SAID you wanted a puppy, not a grown dog!" Now in all fairness, Fonzie was more of a toddler, as they believed he was about 6 months old. I conceded, and as fast as her fingers could type, she filled out the application and immediately called REGAP.



When we met Fonzie we learned he had never been on the track as there was no tattoo and they had found him living under a caboose in rural Kansas. He was malnourished from being a stray and had a "kennel coat," i.e. a little fuzzy for a Greyhound, since he had been living outdoors for an extended period of time. So they assumed he had gotten away from a breeder and had been living the hobo life for a while. He was beautiful, a little shy and very sweet. A month later he was at our house.

He was so playful and smart, he learned to fetch, sit, shake and lay down in only a couple of weeks. He was always willing to please and couldn't bear to be away from us! He did have two quirks. One, he would not leave my wife's side for the first 10 days; I couldn't even get him to go outside without her! Two, he was.....



sensitive. If you raised your voice to say "No!" he would cringe and even yelp like you had hit him and would hide from you for hours. I don't know his history, but it must not have been pleasant based on these reactions. After about two months, that was all gone. He became my buddy, he followed me closer than my shadow around the house, sitting outside the shower to wait for me, walking with me from the couch to the kitchen and back to the couch, within sight wasn't good enough.

Then something else changed about Fonzie..... Fonzie got fuzzier as time went on. The Kennel coat didn't go away, it actually expanded.... not much.... But definitely more than a Greyhound should have! Our precious little greyhound grew into a Lurcher (greyhound mix)! We had never had a "mix" before....maybe we were dog snobs, I don't know???? What I do know is that God sent me a perfect creature that healed my soul of the loss we had experienced. I had heard the term "heart hound" before but didn't understand it, I loved all my dogs. But this was special; we were "connected." He became my running buddy, my hiking buddy, my comedian, my go to Home Depot buddy and best of all the greatest bedtime snuggler ever! I have never had a dog sleep literally with his arms around me and his head on my chest or cheek. I think my wife was jealous.

Fonzie didn't just wow me, he wowed everyone he met! We had also acquired an Irish wolfhound over the next year, and she would get the looks and the initial attention because of her size, but it was Fonzie that would steal their hearts. Family and friends would come to visit and within an hour or so they would lean over and say in a whisper "Fonzie is my favorite" or "Fonzie is SOO Sweet." In fact my sister-in-law who had been nagged by her husband relentlessly for another dog for years and flatly refused, told him "If you can find another Fonzie dog you can get another dog"..... famous last words. A few months later the REGAP contacted me and said they had another stray Lurcher that was rescued. I sent a picture of the "Fonzie dog" to my sister-in-law and she had my brother putting up a fence that week. BAM.... Princess Leia the Fonzie dog joined their family!

I know those reading this love Greyhounds, as do I. But sometimes, God asks us to "mix" up our life a little, step out on a limb and introduce a little mystery of the unknown into our lives. Lurchers give you the look and feel (albeit a little fuzzier) of a greyhound, with their elegance, sweet gentleness and loyalty but with a little bit of special sauce mixed-in that gives them that extra kick!

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Keep Your Grey Safe in 2015

Many things are destined to change over the lifecycle of the beloved greyhounds who so gratefully enter and gracefully leave our earthly homes. Some things however 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. We conduct thorough pre-adoption process to ensure our greys are adopted into safe homes. You, by signing the KCREGAP Adoption Contract, say you promise to follow the rules laid out in the the adoption agreement.

This includes never allowing your sight hound off-leash in an unenclosed area, allowing your grey to live in your comfy, cozy, cooled and warmed homes, and keeping a tag on their collar to help you can remember your address and phone number.

People learn to recognize hazards, but sighthound typically don't. Don't risk the unthinkable. Keep your babies safe, comfortable, and identified so that we can always know that the rescue was worth the effort.

2014 Financial Highlights

The year 2014 was a record breaking year for reducing vet expenses for KCREGAP. Thanks to the efforts of our great volunteers, KCREGAP has brought in and treated 48 greys as of October and our average cost / dog was reduced by 35%! The reduction is due to several factors, which include receiving healthier pups as well as working with multiple veterinarians to reduce costs. The cost savings has allowed us to help more dogs than in the past as well. While we hope his trend continues, we need your help to continue to place more retired racers in 2015!

Below are our historical costs for the last three years:

Year	# of Dogs	Avg Cost/Dog
2012	39	\$763
2013	34	\$713
2014 - Oct YTD	48	\$483



KCREGAP Expense Breakdown:
Veterinarian..... 50%
Boarding/Food..... 37%
Fundraising..... 8%
All other exp. 5%

Please help KCREGAP continue our mission. Make a year-end donation and also consider becoming a Greyhound Guardian by visiting our website today.

Yes, I want to support the life-saving efforts of KCREGAP!
Enclosed, please find my special gift of:
 \$15.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other \$ _____

Note: Please insert this card and your donation in the self addressed envelope
OR

An easy, safe and secure method of making a contribution is available on line this year at www.kcregap.org
Just look for the PayPal Year End Donation button

Thank You For Your Support!
Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law. 2014

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