



# GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA MINNESOTA

# Home Stretch

July - September 2013

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## Greyfest 2013: Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Greyfest 2013! The day was postcard perfect. Sunshine, blue sky, warm breeze, and hundreds of greyhounds and greyhound lovers all came together for our annual family reunion.

The day included costume contests (with one of the hounds dressed as Prince, ala Purple Rain), a longest tail competition, and best trick (am I the only one whose greyhounds roll their eyes at the idea of doing a trick?).



Speed Alley was a runaway success (pun intended) with several hounds breaking the 35 mph barrier. Thank you to Kristy of Kristy Bee Photography for donating her time and talent to take high speed photos of all the graceful greys gaily galloping on green grass! Thank you also to all the humans who purchased a photo of your pup running Speed Alley – that money all goes to GPA MN to support our work.



The raffle proved to be an exceptional success – at just over \$7,500 we raised more money than any prior Greyfest raffle! Thank you to all the supporters who donated baskets, gifts and artwork to be raffled off. And thanks to the folks who bought raffle tickets! We are so lucky to have such a generous and supportive membership. All the money raised by selling raffle tickets goes to support GPA MN and our mission of finding forever homes for retired racers.

We are already planning what Greyfest 2014 will look like. We see this event as our annual family get-together. Please share with us any ideas you have to make it even greyt-er... e-mail [greyfest@gpa-mn.org](mailto:greyfest@gpa-mn.org) with suggestions, ideas, tips, areas of improvement, etc.

And finally, in perhaps the sweetest ending to a sweet day, we are proud to announce that four greyhounds were united with their forever families at Greyfest. We hope to see all you new greyhound moms and dads next year!

# Home Stretch

## GPA Minnesota's Mission Statement

Greyhound Pets of America Minnesota is the Minnesota chapter of a national non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to finding loving, responsible homes for retired racing greyhounds and also younger greyhounds that haven't been successful at the various tracks throughout the country. We also take great pride in educating the public that retired racers make excellent, loving pets.

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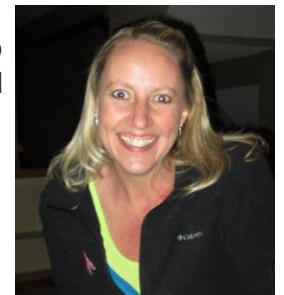
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Nicole Middlecamp

# Foster Mom Profile: Linda Schmidt

### How did you get started with greyhound fostering?

After I lost my Shiba Inu Copper it was just Piper (my first greyhound) and me and we thought the house seemed too quiet! I had always been interested in fostering, and looked forward to giving back to GPA MN. My first foster was a big brindle male Kylo, and wow .he was a handful at first. I remember that first night, Piper and I looked at each other like yep, and we have a puppy in the house! Kylo turned out to be a great dog and I remember running into him at the Cottage Grove dog park a few years back and he seemed so happy!



### What have you learned about greyhounds that you did not know before fostering?

Main thing was just how curious they were about home life! I think it's so funny when they see themselves in the mirror for the first time. It seems like the males I've had have always been infatuated with their image! Also, it amazes me how fast they pick up on things and how smart they are.

### What is the best part about fostering?

I think fostering has made me a better pet owner for sure. You are exposed to so many hound personalities and you learn what works and what doesn't with each one. Also, I still get a warm feeling in my heart whenever I see a foster adopted and they go into their new home and the love that their family showers over them. Knowing, that you did the best to get them into their forever home, you can't beat that feeling!!!

### What is the hardest part about fostering (other than getting them into their forever home)?

Hardest part is when they have an accident or ruin something in my home. Always be prepared with Nature's Miracle, or a little bit of vinegar and baking soda! I've learned to hound proof a house over the years!

### What would you say to someone considering fostering a greyhound?

Do it! It's the most rewarding experience, and you will become an even better pet owner. We always need fosters and even if it's just for a day or two, the help is always appreciated! How can you resist those big golden brown eyes staring at you??

### Apply for the GPA MN Board of Directors!

Would you like to be a more active part of the activities that surround the rescue and adoption of greyhounds within the GPA MN organization? Submit an application for a position on the Board of Directors! Find all the details and submit your application at [www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org).

# There's No Business Like Your Own Business

Sylvia Kresal

Leah Gannon and Jeremy Fliss have been hosting meet & greets in St. Paul since 2007. In September 2012 they became the proud owners of the store they do the meet & greets in, and had their grand opening November 9, 2012. The store has been renamed St. Paul Pet Supply and the address is the same - 1752 Grand Avenue in St. Paul. They were assisted in this by their two hounds - Nacho, a beautiful brindle and Sid, a glorious fawn.



When asked why they decided to become small business owners Jeremy said that it gives them more time to spend with each other and with their dogs.  
Nothing is better than spending time with our dogs.

Check out their store when you attend their meet & greets or take a shopping trip to St. Paul Pet Supply. They carry not only dog food and supplies but also cat food, cat supplies, and small animal products. Your hounds are welcome - Betty made herself at home on a fluffy cushion.

Check out their website at [www.stpaulpetsupply.com](http://www.stpaulpetsupply.com) or call 651-696-1817 to find out more about their healthy products, hours, and location. Congratulations Leah, Jeremy, Nacho, and Sid!

## Demo Day at the State Fair



Demo Day at the Minnesota State Fair was a very well-supported and equally well-attended event. Despite the heat and bright sun, the hounds put on a great show for all sorts of curious onlookers. Over the course of nine hours, GPA MN friends and supporters fielded questions about living with greyhounds, talked with potential adopters about the unique

benefits of the greyhound breed, and made sure to keep the hounds cool and hydrated.



Demo Day is a great way for GPA MN to plant the seeds of future greyhound adoption in the minds of folks who might not otherwise be exposed to these great pups. One woman even commented, Every year, I come to see the greyhounds. I have two young kids now, but when they are older, I am getting a greyhound.

Foster hounds Flora and Charlie (each only a few weeks off the track) even made an appearance for a few hours, meeting the other GPA MN hounds, walking around with curious on-lookers and getting their first real taste of life in retirement! Shane even showed up in his Minnesota Twins hat! Thanks to all the people who came out to support us at Demo Day!

## 2013 GPA MN Board Members

Please contact any board member with concerns, questions, suggestions, or to get involved.

- Lisa Quast: President, Greyfest Coordinator
- Nicole Middlecamp: Vice President, Foster Coordinator, Haul Coordinator
- Kate Friedrichs: Treasurer, Merchandise
- Michael Horrigan: Secretary, Heal a Hound, Lost Hound Network
- Curt Carter: External Relations, Heal a Hound
- Heather Everhart: External Relations Coordinator, Grant Writing
- Lori Rasmussen: Special Events, Volunteers
- Caprice Niccoli-Waller, Returns Coordinator
- Seth Tryniewski: Newsletter Coordinator

*Visit our website to learn more about our board members*

## Additional Contributors

- Barb Gates: Adoption Coordinator, Newsletter Editor
- Teri Petrin: Adoption Representative (Chippers)
- Paula Ross: Adoption Representative
- Sylvia Kresal: Meet & Greet Coordinator
- Luana Ball: Vetting and Haul Supplies Coordinator
- Kari Keller: Lost Hound Network

# Board Member Spotlight: Heather Everhart

## Where are you from? What do you do? What are your interests outside of GPA MN?

Originally from North Dakota, but have been in MN for 10+ years. I am an artist and self-employed assistant and consultant to artists, creative small businesses, and non-profits. I'm the Art Coordinator for Paper Darts Magazine, a local art and literature publication. Art and GPA aside, I love yoga, biking, travel, hoarding books, and watching Dr. Who with my family.



## How did you first get introduced to greyhounds?

We had wonderful neighbors, Jon and Susan, who had a big beautiful retired racer named Kenji. We knew we wanted to get a large breed dog and after getting to know them, we knew it had to be a greyhound.

I had met a greyhound or two before Kenji, but it was his unique personality, charm, and adoring eyes that endeared me to greyhounds forever.

## Why did you get involved with GPA MN as a board member?

I got involved with the GPA board because of the very accurate match they made with our girl, Stella. It kind of blew me away how thorough and considerate the adoption process was, not only for the humans but for the hounds as well. GPA provides a high level of care, forethought and customer service, and I wanted to be a part of that.

## What are some of the things you do as a board member?

As a board member, I helped oversee and develop the rebranding of GPA MN and our website. I'm involved with advertising, sponsorships, fundraising, and social media. I wrangle my amazing husband Isaac into designing all of our marketing materials gratis.

## What are the best parts of being on the board? And the hardest parts?

The hardest part of board work is managing expectations and time to best serve everyone involved. I love getting to work with these talented people on a cause we all care for so deeply. It's a great fortune that thanks to greyhounds, we can develop friendships with people one might never have met otherwise.

## May and June Donations to GPA MN

J. Adcock

Jeff Allen – *in honor of Mark Downey & Christine Sanguinet, and in memory of Eleanor & Ringo*

Angela Bata

Comic-Con Attendees – Help the Hounds

Donation check from Judy Triplett

Community Shares of Minnesota

Kathleen Costello

John and Jennifer Cottew

Mark Downey

Terry and Pete Frank

Diane Glawe – *on behalf of Christine Sanguinet*

Liz and Greg Hendricks

Nicole Hilgendorf

Vicki Holtz

Stephen & Catherine Isles

Elizabeth Jenner

Jacob Jordan

Kari Keller – *in loving memory of Rodney, my first greyhound*

Pamela Kildahl

Matthew and S. Kirkwood

Matthew Markham

Suzanne Marra

Melinda Moran

Morgan Stanley

O. Ya Greyhounds – *in honor of Pup/Yowzer*

Petco Foundation

Megan Scott

Karen Shuman – *in honor of my two greyhound grandpuppies Blake and Kiowa, and my future son-in-law Matt Ladwig*

Bob and Lonnie Skrentner

Michael Strickland

United Health Group

Alan Vorse

Voyagers K9 Apparel

Sydney Woods

# Special Delivery: From Dubai to Belgium to California

The love for greyhounds is truly a global phenomenon. Rescue groups in the US, Belgium and the United Arab Emirates recently came together to find Forever Homes for abandoned racing hounds.

Salukis – also known as Persian Greyhounds – are a close-cousins of the greyhound. Considered to be one of the oldest domesticated breeds of dog, the relationships between humans and salukis date back to ancient Egypt. Saluki-like images even appear on some ancient Egyptian tombs. Like greyhounds, Salukis are sight-hounds, great at catching rabbits, swift and gentle. One obvious difference is that Salukis tend to have longer, more feathered coats than do greyhounds.



Within the last 20 years, the popularity of racing Salukis has returned in Middle Eastern countries like the UAE. Historically, saluki racing was part of the country's cultural heritage but fell out of favor when rapid economic development reduced the need for hunting dogs. However, the resurgence of saluki popularity within the region has returned and so has the racing. Most saluki races are held at camel racing tracks. The races run throughout the year (except for August) and are open to the public. Blood tests are conducted before each race to check for doping.



Just like the racing industry in the US and Europe, some dog owners provide top-notch care for their animals – during and after their racing career. One prominent UAE Saluki racer, Sheikh Rashid, has 300 salukis. He knows each one by name. They live in air conditioned kennels with a 70-meter pool for bathing and cooling off. Unfortunately, not all saluki racers provide this level of care for their dogs. Once the saluki's racing career ends, many are abandoned by their owners.



Groups (just like GPA MN) have formed throughout the US, Europe and the UAE to rescue these abandoned salukis and find them safe and permanent housing. Recently, these saluki advocates marked a great victory for their rescue efforts. Three abandoned Salukis were rescued from the city streets of Dubai by the Arabian Saluki Center of Belgium. This particular rescue group worked with Greyhound Friends for Life (a northern California rescue) to arrange travel of the three dogs from Belgium to their new homes in San Francisco. The hounds arrived home this July.

The obstacles volunteers (just like the supporters of GPA MN) will overcome to make sure these beautiful hounds are delivered to safe and caring forever homes speaks to the love greyhounds and salukis engender amongst their humans. Cheers to the work of all retired racer rescue groups!

## Recent Adoptions

Shannon Lee-Vorse and Alan Vorse, Snappy

Cathy and Steve Isles, Nora

Krista Cunningham, Joe

Matt Markham and Jessi King-Markham, Darwin

Kathleen Costello, Annie

Angelica Bastistini-Gentile and Jacob Jordan, Cub

Angela and Todd Bata, Julien

Nicole Hilgendorf and Jordan Ford, Linus

Sydney Woods, Sweet Potato

Liz and Greg Hendricks, Wyatt

Gabriel Gryffyn and Rob Withoff, Scarlette

Karen Eide, Kate

David and Melanie Naughto, Yowzer

Ryan Kraska, Goldie

Crystal MacLeod, Bunny

Grace Doyle and Nick Scott Russel, Doc

Lisa Malloy and Kurt Lach, Ziggy

Bonnie and William Alms, Omar

Paula Ross, Prancer

Terrance Wipf, Buddy

# 2013 GPA National Meeting Recap

This year's National Board meeting was held in Pensacola FL, and Hosted by GPA Emerald Coast Chapter. The theme of the events surrounding the board meeting was "Hooray for Howlywood" which featured creative "Greyhoundification" of popular Hollywood film titles and icons. The host chapter went above and beyond planning a weekend full of activities & events. The highlight of the weekend was a tour of the Pensacola Race Track facilities and the chance to see the hounds in action.



## National Business

The national meeting featured election of national board members, voting on changes to national by-laws, and discussions on the state of racing and GPA overall. During the election of the new national board members, it was determined that GPA MN is the only chapter in the national organization that uses a system of adopter membership voting to elect board members. All other chapters with representatives at the meeting use recruitment and self perpetuation by the board itself to replace board members; we have updated our by-laws to bring our group into compliance with this accepted national model. Changes to the national by-laws included a requirement for chapters to be in physical attendance of the national meeting at least every other year, with the penalty for non-compliance being loss of voting rights and restricted access to non-emergency grants. Rights would be restored upon return to compliance with this rule. Additionally, the by-laws were amended to limit proxy votes to three proxy votes held by any one chapter. In other discussions, the change in the GPA National Mission came up, most specifically the removal of racing-specific language from the mission statement. The reasoning behind the change was to accommodate the practice of many of the individual chapters taking in non-tattooed hounds.

## Sunburst Project

A special presentation by the Sunburst Project & Kennels provided insight into the current state of Greyhound adoption. The Sunburst Project is a joint venture between GPA Emerald Coast and The Greyhound Alliance, developed to move retired Greyhounds from Florida to other parts of the country. As more tracks close, the supply of hounds is becoming more focused in the state of Florida, where the number of available hounds greatly exceeds the number of adopters. Sunburst has Kennel facilities for 70 dogs located at the Ebro Race Track. Hounds primarily come from the Ebro and Pensacola Tracks. At the kennel they are housed, fed and receive veterinary care until they are ready for transport to the East Coast, Midwest and Western states. In their first two years of operation, the Sunburst Project has relocated over 2,000 hounds for adoption across the country. GPA MN has made a donation of \$2,500 to our sister chapter GPA Emerald Coast, earmarked to help the Sunburst Project & Kennel continue the fantastic work they are doing. Watch for a feature article on the Sunburst Project in the next edition of the Home Stretch.

## Membership Appreciation Event

Membership Appreciation is GPA MN's opportunity to personally thank our members for their support! It's also a chance for you to participate in our general board meeting. We hope you will join us!

**Sunday, October 20th**  
3pm-4pm Social Hour  
4pm-6pm Dinner and General Meeting

**Stone Mountain Pet Lodge**  
935 Radisson Rd NE  
Blaine, MN 55449

### Who's Invited? You are!

As a previous GPA MN adopter, financial contributor or volunteer you are an important part of our membership and we'd love to see you there!

### Can I Bring My Hound?

YES!!! We chose a new venue for MA this year because we wanted to be able to celebrate with not only our members, donors, and volunteers, but also the furry family members that are the center of our organization! The facility has a large play yard area for the hounds to run and play. (SAFETY NOTE: Please bring a muzzle if you plan to let your hound play in the yard.)

Please visit [www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org) for complete event details.

# Sept. 2013 Calendar of Events

Gassy Walk Sundays at 2 pm. Weather permitting, meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet or the Como Lakeside Pavilion at 2 pm.

## September 1

Gassy Walks 2 pm

## September 7

Meet & Greets:

- Coon Rapids 11 am to 1 pm
- Richfield 12 pm to 2 pm

## September 8

Gassy Walks 2 pm

## September 14

Meet & Greets

- Eden Prairie 12 pm to 2 pm
- Burnsville 12 pm to 2 pm
- Woodbury 11 am to 1 pm
- Duluth 12 pm to 2:30 pm

## September 15

Meet & Greets

- Mankato Pet Expo 1 pm to 4 pm

Gassy Walks 2 pm

## September 21

Meet & Greets:

- Fridley 11 am to 1 pm
- Chaska 12 pm to 2 pm

## September 22

Gassy Walks 2 pm

## September 28

Meet & Greets

- Maplewood 12 pm to 2 pm

## September 29

Gassy Walks 2 p.m.

# GPA MN Resources

As an organization, we take great pride in giving our members access to information open forums where they can ask questions, make comments and just talk about greyhounds.

## GPA MN's Website

Visit our website to learn about special events, volunteer opportunities, greyhounds available for adoption and helpful links. [www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org)

## GPA MN's Forum

The forum will take the place of our current eList. To join, visit <http://forum.gpa-mn.org> to complete registration and select a screen name.

## GPA Today

If you are currently subscribed to the discontinued GPA eList, you will be automatically subscribed to GPA Today. If you're not currently subscribed, visit our new website to subscribe under Follow Us.

## GPA MN's Home Stretch

To request a digital copy of the newsletter only that you can read on your computer screen or print to read later go to: <http://www.gpa-mn.org/newsletter.html>.

To request a paper copy of the newsletter be mailed to your home please send your name and address to [info@gpa-mn.org](mailto:info@gpa-mn.org) or leave this information on the GPA MN phone line which is 763.785.4000.

# Oct. 2013 Calendar of Events

Gassy Walk Sundays at 2 pm. Weather permitting, meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet or the Como Lakeside Pavilion at 2 pm.

## October 5

Meet & Greets:

- Coon Rapids 11 am to 1 pm
- Richfield 12 pm to 2 pm
- Highland Park 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

## October 6

Gassy Walks 2 pm

## October 12

Meet & Greets

- Eden Prairie 12 pm to 2 pm
- Burnsville 12 pm to 2 pm
- Woodbury 11 am to 1 pm
- Duluth 12 pm to 2:30 pm

## October 13

Gassy Walks 2 pm

## October 19

Meet & Greets:

- Fridley 11 am to 1 pm
- Chaska 12 pm to 2 pm

## October 20

Membership Appreciation 3 pm to 6 pm

Meet & Greets

- Mankato Pet Expo 1 pm to 4 pm

Gassy Walks 2 pm

## October 26

Meet & Greets

- Maplewood 12 pm to 2 pm

## October 27

Gassy Walks 2 pm



# Greyhound Pets of America Minnesota

P.O. Box 18312 | Minneapolis, MN 55418  
763-785-4000 | [newsletter@gpa-mn.org](mailto:newsletter@gpa-mn.org)  
[www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org)

 [facebook.com/gpamn](https://facebook.com/gpamn)  
 [twitter.com/gpamn](https://twitter.com/gpamn)

## Special Thanks

GPA MN would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their support and financial aid.

### Meet & Greet Locations:

#### PETCO Stores

- Burnsville
- Duluth
- Highland Park
- St. Cloud
- Chaska
- Eden Prairie
- Maplewood
- Woodbury
- Coon Rapids
- Fridley
- Richfield

Pet Expo Mankato

Urbanimal Minneapolis

St. Paul Pet Supply

### Our Participating GPA MN Vets:

Blaine Area Pet Hospital, 763-754-2131

Brookdale Animal Hospital, 763-560-6906

Brooklyn Park Animal Hospital, 763-566-6000

Chanhassen Veterinary Clinic, 952-934-8862

Cottage Grove Animal Hospital, 651-768-0200

Grand Avenue Veterinary Center, 651-224-3038

Minnesota Valley Pet Hospital, 507-345-5900

Rivertown Animal Hospital, 651-430-2229

Twin Cities Animal Rehab Clinic, 952-224-9354

## Waiting at the Bridge

*While our beloved hounds  
may no longer be with us  
they remain  
forever in our hearts*

Lightning - Bree and Bill Plessel  
Matilda - Joyce Reese  
Cassie - Nancy and Brad Perlich  
Atlas - Peter Toftey  
Lucy - Stephen and Collette Pacholl  
Mulsey - Chris King

*Please email [newsletter@gpa-mn.org](mailto:newsletter@gpa-mn.org) if you would like  
to have your Rainbow Bridge memorial listing included.*