



A LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Leonard Schollen

Is That a Rescue?

Walking a Greyhound can be very time consuming mostly because they stand in one spot while you answer the many questions from people you meet along the way. Usually the first question is "is she a rescue", my reply is always no, she is retired. I don't like using the term "rescue" to describe our Greys it implies that their lives were threatened prior to us adopting them. "Retired" more accurately describes that they once were working animals, working at a job they were born to do and enjoyed doing, chasing. So the next time you get that question simply respond "no ma'am/sir she's retired".

A lot has happened since our last newsletter, we have been accepted as a partner organization by PetSmart which comes with many perks such as food for our hounds in foster homes, discounts on auction items, priority meet and greet schedules in stores in BC and AB. PetSmart executives will be conducting introduction meetings with some board members and foster families to better understand our needs and desires.

We have found loving families for 15 hounds in both provinces; many thanks to Brandi and her group in Calgary and Judy and the gang in BC for a job well done, many, many hours were devoted in the process. And thank you to all of our foster families, it's wonderful magic you perform getting the hounds ready for their forever homes and thank you very much to those that failed at fostering, transforming from foster to forever home.

Please join us as we work to make 2017 the best year ever for the hounds.

Happy Adopting, Len

Rainbow Bridge		Dogs We Have Said Goodbye To	
	Ms. Peabody (Swee' Pea)	RK's Galaxy (Lexi)	
	Bwana Smoking Hot (Smokey)	Pure Rumble (Rumble)	
	Pat C Step On It (Stella)		
Happy Tails		Welcome to Our New Dogs	
	Hunter	Pluto	
	Angie (Cleo)	Lola	
	Sully	JB's Hard Copy (JB)	

TIPS : House Training

Anyone having trouble with house training. Try this \$1 trick. Put a dab of Vick's Vapo-Rub on the last spot (after it is cleaned up). Voila! No more piddles. Available at Dollarama.



It's strange, I've been an animal lover and dog owner my entire life, but never once did the handsome breed of greyhound ever cross my mind.

That is, until one day last fall when I met a whippet named George. I was in a busy coffee shop in downtown Calgary, and noticed a strange, pointy-head with large eyes outside looking very worried.

Entranced, I couldn't help going out to pet him. His owner introduced him as George, and I was delightfully surprised by the softness of his ears and the terrified endearment he expressed.

It was in that moment touching George's silky ears that I decided I wanted a sight hound. Our family dog Chester had passed away the year before, and there had been a milk bone-sized void in my heart that desperately needed filling. An acquaintance of mine owned a greyhound, so I asked her opinion on the matter.

"Do not get a whippet. Get a greyhound. They're amazing, they sleep all day."

Greyhound? I was unsure. They seemed too big, and didn't they need a lot of exercise? I've now learned that "a lot of exercise" equates to changing positions on the couch every one to three hours.

As you may have discerned, I did decide to adopt a greyhound. We've always had dogs raised from puppies, but with my hectic work schedule the thought of a new puppy in the house seemed too stressful.

What sold me on adopting was after meeting a group of these beautiful beasts at the NCGL bi-weekly greyhound gatherings in Calgary. Taken aback at how large some of them were, I was also delightfully surprised at how many came right up to me, long nose in the air, ready to have a good lean on someone.

For those unfamiliar with what I've dubbed a noodle-horse, here's been my experience since we adopted our fawn Sully (who does, in fact, look quite a bit like a young deer).

The day he arrived, I was so excited. I pictured him coming into my yard, tail wagging, ready to leap into the arms of the owner who would love him forever. But Sully (formerly known as McGruff) wasn't what I expected — at first.

He stood in my yard, completely frozen, tail so far between his legs it was almost tickling his chin. For a full week, he hardly seemed to move, silently skulking around the house, his big, wet eyes full of fear every time my boyfriend and I came near him.

Poor noodle-horse!

Seven months later, our Sully is more than I imagined a dog could be. With a lot of love, some new carpeting on our rickety staircase and hundreds of treats later, Sully's initial anxieties had disappeared. I now understand exactly what everyone in this crazy greyhound community (sorry, we are all crazy) is raving about.

Loyal (you'll never go to the bathroom alone after bonding with your bald-thigh beauty), poised, wiggly and a little bit smelly, I haven't met one person who has regretted their decision to adopt a greyhound.

I can't tell you what having a cat is like because I've never owned one (that's a little too scary), but I think owning a greyhound would be a similar experience. No joke, they sleep about 15-18 hours a day, and can often be caught preening themselves in a slightly vain manner.

They are almost disturbingly quiet — I can't tell you the amount of times I've turned around and big, spooky Sully has snuck up behind me, nose one inch from my bum... — and very sweet. Ironically, one of my favourite things about Sully is what led him to me in the first place: racing.

Don't worry, I'm not operating an underground racetrack in my neighbourhood. But with some practice at the off leash parks, it's a most magnificent sight watching a greyhound run at top speed. Despite their laziness, a greyhound's true passion is the open air and ground under their feet. And let me tell you, it's pretty rewarding when a small crowd gathers at the dog park to marvel at how fast your dog is. Na-na-na, my dog is better than yours!

I could honestly ramble on forever about how great Sully is (we even share an Instagram account now, @magicdoggirl), but I don't want you to suffer as my co-workers who are forced to look at multiple pictures of him a day do.

Bottom line: if you are looking to adopt and want a low-energy animal that will love you unconditionally to the ends of the earth, a greyhound is for you. You won't find a bonier or better dog anywhere else.

(or A Day in the Life of a Greyhound Halfway Home)

Joe and I adopted our beautiful Greyhound Kairo through Northwest Canadian Greyhound League (NCGL) in May of 2014. Several months prior to Kairo's adoption we met Dan, Brandi and fellow Greyhound lovers at the Calgary PetSmart Greyhound Meet & Greet. We researched, applied and waited in anticipation while Dan and Brandi made the trek to Colorado and back with the gorgeous hounds.



As quickly as we fell in love with Kairo we knew we wanted to help NCGL bring more hounds to their forever homes.....and so begins our story.

On a clear southern Alberta morning we pack one small bag, fill our coffee cups, and leave home to travel 1,500 km to Nunn, Colorado.

Brandi and Dan have already done the legwork in Calgary with van rental, van prep, hound supplies and required paperwork. Once through US customs, we set the Garmin to our target and proceed to head south. Joe and I always enjoy a road trip, especially one that promises adventure. Driving through vast stretches of sparsely populated, oftentimes barren land, we take in the gorgeous scenery and wonder what this experience will bring.

Our destination.....*Almost Home for Hounds*, a facility run by Dr. Heather Weir and a "halfway home" for Greyhounds coming from the racing industry looking for their forever homes. Some greys are "retired", some never made the track and some, well, they're just looking for a forever home. Dr. Weir works hard at ensuring all greys are spayed/neutered, heart worm tested, up to date on vaccinations, receive a dental and general checkup.

Almost Home for Hounds is located just outside of Nunn Colorado, about 130 kms north of the city of Denver, on an acreage along Weld County Road 98. It consists of a large Greyhound building and a volunteer house about 30 feet to the west. Heather has an apartment within the Greyhound facility as she is better able to monitor the hounds if she is close by. Besides the apartment, the Greyhound facility has several sections and rooms. The Welcome Room houses the incoming dogs, where they remain pending a health check. There's a small room behind the Welcome Room that's used as an overflow, for times Heather receives more dogs than originally anticipated. Next we have what I call the Heartworm Room. Occasionally a Greyhound will test positive for heartworm and needs special medical care. These greys stay in this area for the duration of their treatment....until they test negative. Adjacent to this we have the Long Term Living Room. This room looks like a living room, complete with couches, arm chairs and even a TV! The dogs here are special needs permanent residents. And in the front area is the Main Dog Room. This is where we find the dogs that are ready to go to their adoption groups within Canada and the US. There are 40 or so kennels in this room.

Our drive takes approximately 15 hours, stopping only for fuel. Upon arrival at Heather's acreage, usually around 7:00 p.m., we set up in the volunteer house and proceed to the Greyhound building. We spend the next 4 or so hours chatting with Heather, assist with feeding, cleaning, playing with the greys etc. Late to bed and early to rise.....the nights are quiet, peaceful, the sky flooded with stars. The 50+ Greyhounds are amazingly quiet; not much is heard throughout the night, although one night I heard the far off moon-howl of coyotes.....and a booming chorus from the Greyhound building. It was hauntingly beautiful.

On one of our trips we had the exciting once-in-a-lifetime experience of assisting a Greyhound caesarean section. Heather doesn't usually deal with pregnant hounds but this one got pregnant "by mistake" at one of the Greyhound farms and ended up with Heather....and here we are in surgery with mask and gown, and responsible for the revival of the newborn pups as Heather carefully relieved the mother of her labor that began more than 14 hours earlier. There were 8 pups born that night, one was stillborn, one passed over to the Bridge in my hands and another became a Bridge baby the day after. Mom survived the ordeal and the five babes have since been adopted. It was an experience we won't forget.

The next day begins at 5:00 a.m. sharp and the first order of business is the care of the greys. We take them out into the dog runs, girls first, then the boys; 45 to 60 minutes for each group. We enjoy this the most as we can interact and play with each grey individually. While the dogs are out their bedding is changed. The dogs are let in and we repeat this for each room, which takes several hours. The rest of the day is spent doing laundry, poop patrol, cleaning the hound hauling trailer, general cleanup and maintenance around the buildings. Sometime between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. we repeat the care of the hounds' routine, plus prepare their food and feed them. Heather administers medication, performs surgeries, and prepares paperwork plus a myriad of other tasks in between all of this.

The evening before we leave for home we receive the paperwork on which hounds we will be taking with us, usually between 6 and 8 greys.

They fit amazingly well into the back of a Stow 'n Go Minivan. We are loaded up with our precious cargo and on the road by 6:00 a.m. Our most difficult moment is leading our assigned group of greys out to the van, and looking back at the other faces behind the kennel doors....wanting to take them all. A melancholy feeling follows us back a long, long way.

Joe drives the entire way back and I, for the most part, spend time with the greys in the back of the van. (I can fit into small spaces). This is where I get to know them a bit, send updates to Brandi and Dan, and generally fall in love with them. They seem to really enjoy the attention and human touch.

Arrival time at home varies depending on Canada Customs as sometimes things don't go smoothly there. We keep the greys at our home in Lethbridge overnight; we are well set up to accommodate them all. They wear off some energy, have a night snack and are ready to settle down. Dim the lights, put on some relaxing music....works wonders for stressed out hounds. We venture off to Calgary the next morning to deliver the greys to Dan, Brandi and the foster families.

It's difficult to find the right words to accurately describe these experiences. This is really a brief account of the practicalities of a "hound haul". The realities are best experienced in person, and we would encourage others to join in the experience if at all possible. It is our hope that we can continue to participate in hauls, fostering and volunteering in this and many other ways in years to come.

A special thanks from Joe and I to the following:

- ▶ **NCGL British Columbia and Board Members – for everything this organization does and stands for.**
- ▶ **Dr. Heather Weir – for her commitment to the greys and allowing us to be a part of her work.**
- ▶ **Brandi Williams, Dan Boileau and NCGL Calgary – for support, assistance and putting up with my late night calls and texts.**
- ▶ **Dogtopia McCall in Calgary, AB – donating their facilities so we can meet, wash the greys, photograph them and distribute them to their families.**
- ▶ **Dawn Robertson – super lady and Greyhound lover extraordinaire – for providing the best care for Kairo while we are on the road.**
- ▶ **Foster families, forever homes and greyhound lovers both near and far.**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for AVAILABLE POSITIONS



NCGL needs the assistance of volunteers on various projects to bring the structure of our organization up to date:

:: A Volunteer or a Committee of Volunteers to research, register, manage and schedule flights for

our Greyhounds between & within BC and AB with Pilots N' Paws, a new method of transportation that may be available to us. [\(Air Transport Committee\)](#)

:: A Volunteer or a Committee of Volunteers to review our Constitution and to suggest changes which will keep our Charity Registration in line with the requirements of Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to maintain our status as a Charity. Our structure has changed over the years although our purpose has not and it is time to bring our by-laws in line with today's operations. [\(Constitution & By-laws Committee\)](#)

:: A Volunteer or a Committee of Volunteers to research and develop a Policy and Procedures manual to guide present and future members in the day to day operation of NCGL and provide a Privacy Policy to which we must adhere. We collect personal information during the adoption and/or fostering process and therefore are required to develop a policy to protect that information. [\(Policy & Procedures Committee\)](#)

:: A Volunteer or a Committee of Volunteers to research a procedure to hold Webinars (Virtual Meetings) for Board of Directors' Meetings and Annual General Meeting. We are a web-based organization with directors, officers and volunteers geographically separated and email has proven to be an inefficient method of conducting meetings. [\(Communications Committee\)](#)

:: A Volunteer or a Committee of Volunteers to develop a series of fundraising opportunities in BC and AB. And to research grants that may be available to NCGL. Always a priority, as there are numerous grants that may be available to NCGL, however, due to time constraints the board has not been able to follow up on them. [\(Fundraising & Grant Committee\)](#)

:: Anyone with a desire to help Greyhounds and an interest or experience in any of the above opportunities please submit a letter of interest to NCGL to: jackiepie@gmail.com

QUESTION: What Goes Here ?	ANSWER: Anything You Want To Contribute	Articles or Photos of Your Hound (We need models!)	Please Send To savethehounds@gmail.com
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Many THANKS ... to our CONTRIBUTORS:

Anna Brooks, Judy Miller, Leonard Schollen, Lynda Brennan, Mariann Martens and Joe McGeough