

How my greyhound changed my life: Mr. Bob

Let's Trade: Resource Guarding

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NEWS FROM THE FRONT

An itty-bitty weekly e-newsletter from Nittany!

JUST SO YOU KNOW...

No, nothing's wrong. Sometimes the week gets away from me. I try to sit down to do this newsletter, and I get interrupted, or distracted. Sorry...I am trying to do this every week, but forgive me if I miss a week.

I've received some e-mails from adopters whose greys have changed their lives and I'll be printing those in our newsletter over the next few weeks. If you have a story to share...even if it's about something else, please send it to me, along with a photo if you can. Our readers are loving the personal touch of this newsletter and you can help me with it. If you'd like to write an article about something else, you can do that too, or send me your fun photos. Just let me know! I'm open for assistants to help me get this out each week!

On another note, I just have to mention this specifically...LOVIE finally got a home! I'm very excited for her. As you may know, she's been here for almost a year. Even though she was with Jamison and Kerri in a great foster home, she still needed a forever home. She got it with George Cunningham, a former adopter who already has two greys and was looking for a third. And apparently it's working out very well. Once again, our people came through and a great dog got a home!

Nittany rocks, and I'm so proud to be along for the ride!

Toni

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MR. BOB (some of you may remember him as James Bond)

He watched from his bed, a vantage point into the kitchen, as the other three pack members danced around me while I prepared their meals. But not him. He observed with that noble eye of his. What was this all about, I thought. We had been rescuing dogs for over 30 years, and after all, he was a hound, a hunting dog. We had more hunting dogs through our house than I could remember, I knew what "Living with Marley" meant, I could have written that book! But this elegant greyhound was different -- reserved, quiet, appearing knowledgeable. I was more baffled than he.



For years I had researched greyhound adoption on-line, looking at all the beauties available, but then another unwanted or medically needy pup would arrive and I would have to put this thought aside. I mean 4 to 5 dogs is all we can manage at one time.

In 2009 I made up my mind, this is it. For 4 years I have watched and waited, No more. We are blessed, we can manage, and my heart could not wait anymore. I sent my application to Nittany Greyhounds, thinking maybe in a few weeks I'd hear from someone there. Within hours, the call came. My heart sang. I explained my pack, and we were matched up this handsome boy. We called him Mr. Bob.

Now, here he was, knowingly looking at me, as if to say "I've been around lady, and nothing here can surprise me, not even that crazy non-grey jumping up and down."

DONATIONS LAST WEEK

George Cunningham added a cash donation onto his adoption fee last week!

Joy Love also made a donation from sales at her shop, Fairfield House, near Johnstown.

Craig Staley made a cash donation through igive.org to us. That's a great and secure way to make an on-line donation. You can also use Paypal, which you can access on our website.

Remember, every penny of your donation goes towards the care, feeding, and medical needs of our adoptable greyhounds. Last year, our vet bills topped \$8,000 and food reached \$1,000! Every little bit helps. It's not the amount, it's the community thought. Once again, if everyone does a little, we can accomplish a lot!

ADOPTIONS LAST WEEK

We got six new dogs in last weekend, and by 9 the the next morning, we had an adoption!

Legend went home for a trial period with the Saunders family of Williamsport. Looks like he'll stay: new name? Bullet!

Titan also will be going home this weekend to the Schuchart family in Hanover. They saw us at a meet 'n greet at the Petco there and fell in love! He's spending a week with Kim and Mike to learn some home-ropes before he goes home.

Butter, our little brood mama, has also now been claimed. She will go to Great Valley, New York, next weekend, with the Prentice family. She's also out in foster and is just a joyous little dog!

And of course our little Lovie went to Bloomsburg and is doing quite nicely with George and his pack.

Two more in the works--stay tuned!

LET'S TRADE . . .

I can't tell you how many phone calls I get from people who tried to take something from their greyhound's mouth and experienced a bite. Most of the time it's a reflex action on both parts -- the dog wants to protect his treasure; the owner wants his belonging or doesn't want the dog to eat something that could hurt him. You lunge for it, the dog growls or worse, snaps.

The laundry basket is full of treasures, the bathroom is a virtual toy chest of things to chew on (toilet brush, plastic caps on the bottom of the commode), the kitchen counters or trash bin... well, you know. With bare hands, the task of extracting something from your grey's mouth can get ugly.

Teach your dog to "trade" the off-limits item for a treat, bone, or safe chew toy. Although the prospect of wanting what he can't have will initially keep him from giving up the item, he will quickly learn that trading up is a good thing.

Here's how to teach it. Choose a play toy that he isn't terribly fond of and offer it to him. Put it in his mouth, and at the same time he drops it, say "drop," then offer a taste treat when he "obeys." Repeat this several times with the same toy. Next, offer him his favorite chew toy. Improve the treat accordingly -- perhaps use jerky rather than kibble because the dog will not be as willing to trade for his favorite toy.

Practice the trading exercise several times. Finally, progress to using this command sporadically, always keeping tasty treats on hand. If your dog picks up a stick or garbage during a walk, offer to trade and reward with a treat. Eventually you will be able to ask him to "drop" any item in exchange for a treat.



FYI -- WELLNESS WEBSITES

There are many great pet wellness websites out there, some specific to greyhounds, some now. Check these out...

Ohio State University Greyhound Health and Wellness Program
<http://vet.osu.edu/GHWP.htm>. This is one of the best web sites ever in terms of research projects and education about greyhound health.

"Greyt Health" by Suzanne Stack, DVM, <http://www.greythealth.com>. This is also an excellent health site. She often visits the listservs with information and is right on.

Pet Place is a good place to find general information about the health of dogs. The web site is <http://www.petplace.com/dog-health.aspx>

American Veterinary Medical Association -- this site offers all kinds of science and social information about animals. <http://www.avma.org>

scroll down...

Mr. Bob continued ...

Almost a year has passed since his arrival, and he has taught me more than I ever thought I could still learn about any dog, (I've been through the mill with dogs over the years). I have learned more patience than I ever thought I had left to learn. His eyes look at me as if to say, "I get it, even though you don't think I do, and Yes I love you too, and the ride ain't over yet, I'm still getting to know the ropes here."

He also brought me something I never, new existed -- "greyhound people" These dog people, just like me, love their dogs, are always willing to help, want to talk to you about their greyhounds, and they want to make the adoption go smoothly. And I learned the "potato chip" analogy, what a Meet and Greet is, and more about dog food than I ever could have ever guessed.

Mr Bob didn't just bring his love to our home, he brought grey-lovers. I didn't see that listed anywhere on the adoption application but they came with the hound, and I'm so glad they did.

Karen Smith
St. Mary's Pa.

A correction: In the last newsletter, I mentioned that Tractor Supply is now donating food to Nittany. At that time, I stated that we were getting broken food bags -- that's not true. The food we get is perfectly saleable and fresh. Thanks again to Tractor Supply!

FUN PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



I've always loved this photo of Taylor and Sobe Hagar and even though it's old, it's worth another look! Too cute!



This photo of Yankee Maddy is priceless! Again, an oldie but goodie!



You have to look closely at this photo above. Alice Passmore was vacuuming and put the ottoman up onto the couch. Oreo was just determined to lie on the couch so she sandwiched herself into the leftover space. What a hoot, and such a determined little girl!

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