

NITTANY GREYHOUNDS



Volume 1, Issue 2
March 2008

From the desk of the President. . . .

Reflections of 2007

It won't be long and Spring will be here. It comes with such anticipation of good things, and Nittany has so much to look forward to. As you all know, we have been plugging along, placing dogs and dealing with the day-to-day operations for the past few years . . . doing well and maintaining as we can with the help of dedicated volunteers and supporters.

But hopefully, things are about to get a little easier! As you will see in this newsletter, we are hoping to take the next step in our goal to have a kennel again. I sincerely hope that all of you will help us with this new adventure and get involved. We need everyone, more now than ever before.

As for 2007, we had a good year. We arranged about 45 adoptions. This is down slightly from last year, but now that we are foster-based, we are totally dependent upon how many homes we have for dogs to go to, and how many adoptions we can get out the door. We also had several returns this past year, through life changes and other reasons, but we handled them and even though that's difficult, it's part of the commitment we make to all of our adopters. That also kept our options down a little bit for taking in new dogs.

All of our board members are so committed and enthusiastic; our meetings are always full of great ideas and conversation and of course dogs too! It's a really fun time; if you have never been to one of our meetings, you should plan to join us because everyone is always welcome. See the calendar in this issue and try to come...you won't be disappointed. We always have great food and lots of good ideas flying around. Or, visit with one of the board members and let them know what you think. We really need everyone's creativity and support to keep going. Our volunteers are our life-blood and we have so many great ones. We are truly blessed.

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NITTANY IS TAKING STEPS FOR A NEW KENNEL!

by Toni Duchi

As a lot of you know, Nittany has walked a long road in the past four years. We had a kennel; then it was gone. We've been doing a foster dog program and while it works well, we have had to cut back on the number of adoptions we can do. But we have persevered, placing 40 to 60 dogs a year, and we do great events, fund raisers, and meet 'n greets to support our adoption program. The one thing we have dreamed of, and planned for, is a kennel where we can again place our adoptable dogs, and in 2008, we just might make it happen!

The Details

In January our board had a conversation about whether or not we wanted to continue to raise money for a physical kennel. It has been discouraging that we have not raised as much money as we had hoped over the years, but we never lost sight of our goal and have continued doing everything we can to add to our bank accounts.

The board consensus is that we definitely want to continue forward with our dream of a location we can call our own and we made a plan to reaffirm our Strategic Plan with that in mind.

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We are also going to be changing our newsletter format, putting our newsletters on line and only mailing to those who request hard copies. As postage goes up, so do our costs so we'd really like to have them available on the website instead of snail-mailing them. In this newsletter you'll find a form asking you about this. If you want to get them by mail, we'll be happy to do that, but we're going to try to cut back. Please consider getting them digitally. All we need is your e-mail address, you can get our regular listserv e-mails about late-breaking news and events.

Also, if you have lost a hound, we'd really like to know that too—not only so we can keep our records up to date, but also for our website. We have a Nittany Angels page there and we'd love to add your beloved baby to it. All we need is a photo and a little something about your dog. You can either e-mail it or send it in and we'll put it on

the page. Now that we have a great new webmaster, our site is looking awesome!

I want to thank you all for your participation this past year and I hope that you will stick with us as we take the next step in this adventure of placing dogs. If you'd like to volunteer, please let me know; if you want to donate, there are any number of ways you can do that...see the other articles in this issue for those details.

I remain committed to these beloved animals, as do all of our board members. I know you do too. Call me or e-mail me any time.

—*Toni*

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Feature **Never Give Up** *by Ellen Aschenbrenner*

Ally "Cat" Smith was seven years old when she and her mother, Mindy saw a retired racing greyhound in a Williamsport pet store. The dog was visiting the store with his owner, who was a friend of the store owner and Mindy and Cat fell in love with the dog. They had known other people who had had greyhounds and knew what wonderful pets they made. Cat wanted a grey immediately after seeing the one at the store. Mindy and her husband, Stan told Cat that the time was just not right for them to add a dog to the family. Besides, the adoption fee was not in the budget. Like Cat, Mindy liked the idea of adopting a retired racer; Stan would be more difficult to convince. Mindy made a deal with Cat. If Cat could raise half the adoption fee, Mindy would come up with the other half and they would then see about adopting a dog.

For the next year and half, the Smiths went to as many greyhound meet and greets and other events in the Williamsport area showcasing greyhounds in an attempt to get to know more about the dog they hoped to one day adopt. The dogs at the meet and greets, were of course, always on their best behavior and Mindy wondered what they'd be like in a home setting. No fewer than fifteen greyhound adopters offered to open their homes to the Smiths so they could see for themselves how the dogs did in a home.

In the meantime, Cat was saving her money. Birthday money, Christmas money, nickels and quarters found outside and donations from classmates and church members found their way into Cat's adoption fund. Cat told anyone who would listen that she was saving money so she could adopt a retired racing greyhound. By the

summer of 2007, Cat had saved \$276.00; enough for the adoption fee and dog food!

Cat celebrated her 8th birthday on September 9, 2007 with some friends at her house. Mindy and Stan set up a "Survivor" type scavenger hunt for the kids. They had to solve riddles, which lead them to treasures. Cat's riddle read, "Daddy said yes." Not knowing what the riddle meant, Cat opened her treasure and found a collar and a leash. Cat had the money, the collar and leash. She was ready for a dog. Mindy and Stan were not certain that THEY were ready for a dog. It didn't take long for them to make a decision.



The Smiths decided that they would adopt the dog through Nittany Greyhounds, but they needed a cat and child safe dog. They also knew they liked the big boys and Nittany did not have a dog that fit the bill. Mindy was encouraged to contact the North Carolina kennel where Nittany gets its dogs and speak with Kim, the owner of the kennel. Kim told Mindy about three dogs that she felt would be perfect for their

household. Mindy and Cat checked the kennel website and when they saw the picture of the red brindle with one ear up and one ear down, with his head cocked to the side, they knew he was the one. His name was Fred.

Fred and a number of other dogs came to Nittany in October 2007 and immediately went to their foster homes. On November 3, 2007, Fred went to his forever home with the Smiths.

Fred fit in nicely in the Smith household. The cat and Stan weren't crazy about him at first, but they all got along alright. It took a while for Fred to learn steps and he was by no means graceful when doing them, but he

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loved to play with stuffed animals and he was good with Cat and her five-year old brother. He loved to eat chicken and sardines and loved to have his butt scratched. Mindy was sure cat had not stopped smiling since Fred came to live with them. But soon, Fred's position in the Smith household would be in jeopardy.

After about a month of living with the Smiths, Fred decided to steal a chicken bone. When Stan tried to take it away from him, Fred bit him in the face, requiring Stan to get seven stitches. Mindy and Stan were faced with a decision. They had to think of the kids. If Fred was willing to bite an adult, could he be trusted with them? He would have to be returned.

But Mindy and Stan, not ones to give up on some-

thing or someone they have made a commitment to, read some dog training books and talked to other greyhound owners. In doing so, they realized that Fred had reacted to Stan in the way he had because of the way Stan had approached him, appearing as a threat to him. Stan had ignored Fred's warning growl and had been bitten when the two literally faced off. They would give Fred another chance and he would stay...for now.

On Christmas Eve, while the Smith family opened gifts, Fred lied down next to Stan and put his head in Stan's lap.

Fred started obedience classes in January!

Nittany Visits Beacon Lodge

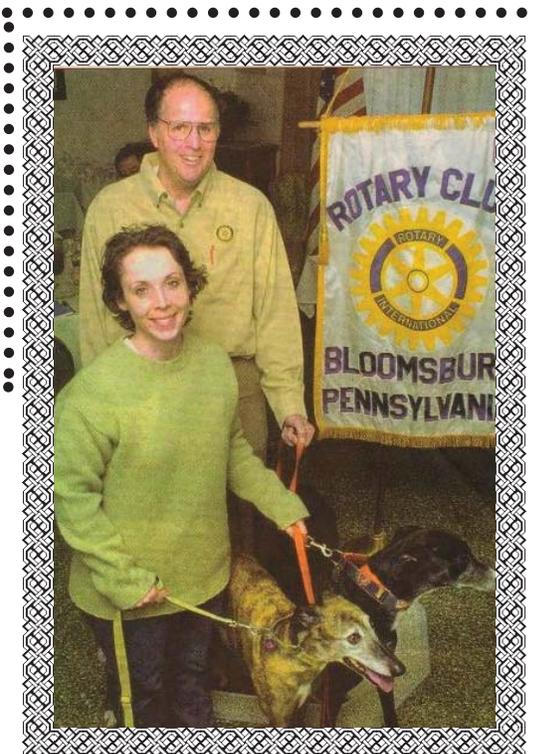
Tom & Tammy Klaus, great volunteers, supporters, and greyhound owners, arranged for Nittany to take some dogs to Beacon Lodge last July. Beacon Lodge is a summer camp in the mountains near Lewis-town for challenged adults, and on this particular day, the campers on site were blind and wanted an opportunity to "see" greyhounds. Joy, Ellen, Toni and Elaine participated with their hounds, spending a rousing two hours with more than 50 campers who petted and pampered the dogs until all were exhausted. We plan to do it again this next summer, so if you have an interest in this, please let Ellen know.



FRED & FAMILY

What a great way to educate people about Nittany Greyhounds!

—Gretchen Frye poses with her two rescued greyhounds Winne and Dylan along with Bloomsburg Rotary Club acting president Phil Pelletier during a dinner meeting at Balzano's banquet room in Bloomsburg. Frye of Nittany Greyhound was the guest speaker at the meeting and talked about rescued greyhound adoptions.



Then one day I was on my way to a job site and I passed a farmette for sale near State College. I was astounded because it sits just over the Huntingdon county line, which is a great location (fees and zoning purposes but close to State College). I immediately contacted the real estate agent and went to look at it. It is perfect! It's in the right place, it has 40 acres (enough to do whatever we want to do in the future) it has a 3-bedroom home, and a pole barn that we could renovate for immediate dog housing. I couldn't believe my eyes! I had looked at a lot of properties over the past four years, and by far, this one is the best in terms of location and utility. The cost, of course, will require a mortgage...something we didn't want to do, but something we will probably have to do if we want to again have a kennel.

To make a long story as short as possible, here's where we are.... After much research about how best to do this, we settled on the non-profit organizational approach for the purchase. The property is zoned agricultural already, there are no close neighbors, and it is in a protection district, so a dog kennel is an acceptable use of the property.

We will have several immediate revenue streams planned—rental of the house, rental of the pastures, a 16-dog boarding kennel, a goodie store, and maybe a dog park (yet to be seen for zoning). We would have a place for our own picnics and events and most of all, of course, a place for our beloved adoptable hounds....We have enough cash in the bank to just about meet the down payment. Nothing good happens without a little stretch, and I totally KNOW we can do it.

Our Next Steps

Our next steps involve working with real estate people to begin the negotiation process for a price on the property. We are also working on renovation and business plans. All of these things have to be in place before we can even go to the local zoning, sewage, and dog warden offices for approvals because without the boarding kennel, there's no reason to

do this at all. Once we have site approvals, then we can go to the banks to find the best deal we can get. It's daunting, but we have great consultants within our own adopters and so we're doing things the right way.

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

When I did have a conversation with a local, supportive banker, he told me that any extra cash we can raise or collateral (pledges) we can come up with will count toward our loan...obviously the more money we have the less we'll have to borrow. But he also said that donated construction materials and labor pledges work too. For instance, we have an adopter who will be donating the cement floor for the kennel and another who has a whole room full of good, used fiberglass insulation we can use. These items have value and will count on the bottom line. We need everything you might find in a kennel and/or office.

(1) To be totally politically incorrect though, cash is the thing we need most right now. If you have ever thought of a tax-deductible donation, this is the time. Every dollar will count so no gift is insignificant (see the giving form elsewhere in this newsletter). Also keep in mind that if you give \$1,000 or more, you can sponsor a "kennel run" with your dog's name on it. This is a great way to either celebrate or memorialize your hound. We have some pledges already from the last campaign we did, but we do have spaces left. To make a donation using Paypal, just go to our website and you can do it right online. Or checks are accepted too. Just fill out the form and send it with your check.

(2) If you have any good recycled construction materials you can pitch in, or if you want to commit time, that would be great. We'll just need a form filled out with the item and the value (also a tax deduction for you). Call Toni if you have an idea or want to pledge. She'll have the simple forms to fill out.

(3) If you know of anyone who owns a business who might like to sponsor something on this project,

ask them. Any business who donates will get the tax-deduction and free advertising on the wall in our kennel and on our website. As I said before, we need fencing, furniture, beds/blankets, office equipment, dry wall, more insulation, ceiling fans, air conditioner, heaters, landscaping, signage...you name it, we need it. Note of course that we don't need things right this second—only if and when we go forward. Call Toni if you have an idea...right now we just need the "pledge and value" of any item.

(4) If you'd like to conduct a fund raiser for Nittany, that would be great. We'll be selling lotto tickets for May (see article elsewhere), but you could entice a scout troop or school class to sell something with us as the beneficiary, or a car wash or a meet 'n greet in your area or donation cans in your local pet service stores, or any number of other things. We're open to any ideas you may have for this.

This is one of the most important crossroads Nittany Greyhounds has ever approached. We all are passionate about our greyhounds, and we now have an opportunity to meet our goal of a new home! We have a very large service area, that's true, but there are jobs enough for everyone and we welcome everyone's interaction. Once we're up and running, we hope to have overnight accommodations for those who may want to come and help out in the kennel or with construction—we'll be using all-volunteer help for a while, so we can use you!

If you have specific questions, I would be happy to discuss any of this with you. Feel free to call me at any time – Toni Duchi (814-692-4769). Watch our website for updates on this project as we go along...it's a new url so bookmark it when you're there...at www.nittanygreys.org.



Nittany News and Roos!!

www.AWESOME!!!!



NITTANY HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

If you haven't yet seen it, visit www.nittanygreys.org very soon. We have a new site, with a new webmaster, Steve Wagner, who has taken it to a whole new level! He is a super web guy with lots of great ideas. But remember, when you're there, bookmark the new site because eventually our old site will be removed and we want you to be able to find us!

The site has great new features, like a guest book, a calendar that's very easy to read and shows you a month at a time, a great goodie store with the ability to buy securely on-line, and lots of other fun things. Take the time to surf around...

If you have any ideas for the site, pictures or photos you'd like to share, please send them to Steve at steve@bluepalmtrees.com. This is your site too!

BOARD ESTABLISHES AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND

With a unanimous vote at our last meeting, the board voted to create a new Emergency Medical Fund, for adopters who face unexpected medical bills for their greyhound.

The fund will provide 25% of any amount over \$250 per dog. For example, if you receive a medical bill for \$1000, you would be eligible to receive \$188 toward paying that bill (25% of \$750). We will receive applications in a case-by-case basis. This is not meant to cover routine check-ups, nor will it be approved to cover experimental or unreasonable treatment that cannot be proven to cure the dog (such as chemotherapy).

The application process will include an application and copies of veterinary bills. The money will be paid directly to the adopter and not to the veterinarian.

Please go to the website at www.nittanygreys.org to download the application, or call Ellen Aschenbrenner at 814-880-6184 for a paper application to be mailed to you.

MONTHLY LOTTERY GAINS MOMENTUM!

Nancy Ort and Robin Cabral have now done two monthly lotteries for Nittany, and they're just getting better and better. Here's how it works . . . you buy a lottery ticket that has two numbers on it...you hold those two numbers for an entire month. Each day, the noon PA lottery drawing is what we match against, so if you have the number drawn, you win the amount that is printed on your ticket...some days are more than others. So in essence, you have 60 chances to win in one month with one ticket! Our next lotto is in May...

Each ticket costs \$10. If you would like to buy a ticket, please e-mail Nancy at nancyort@comcast.net. If you would like to sell tickets, she'd be happy to send you some. This is growing each time and is becoming a great fund raising tool for us. Please contact Nancy right away if you'd like to purchase or to sell tickets.



GOODIE STORE RE-ENERGIZING!

Nancy Ort has taken over our goodie store, and she is doing a great job of getting new items in house and getting them up on the website. When you get a chance, check out our store. You can buy items there via credit card now and she'll ship them to you. We're working on new t-shirts and other clothing items, some new custom-made pottery just for us, new pillow cases with cool designs, and other stuff...check back often because we'll be adding to this all the time and if you have other ideas for items you'd like to see us stock, just let her know.

2007 ANNUAL PICNIC GETS US ALL TOGETHER

Last September, Nittany adopters got together at the FOP Lodge in Port Matilda for our annual Gathering of the Greys. It was an absolutely beautiful day, and with about 100 hounds in attendance, it was a sight to behold. As usual, we played games and ate a lot of food (the people). We had a great raffle, and made some new friends. Thanks so much to Ellen Aschenbrenner for getting us this lovely lodge for our picnic and for all the volunteers who participated to pull this together. It was the perfect location and a great social day! These photos say it all!



What a "GREYT" group!



Beauty Queen of the picnic scene!



No hot dog is worth this much trouble...



OK we made it...where's the food?

DEWEY BREAKS A RECORD AGAIN!

It seems that it always rains during our Dewey Fund Raiser Auction and last year was no exception. But that didn't stop us from having a great turnout and an even better time. Sheena pulled out all the stops again, and we had dozens of prizes for our raffle, most donated from other vendors at Dewey! We also had at many Nittany volunteers to help out with this raffle. Again, we raised more than \$1,000 for our group. Thanks to Sheena for making this happen yet again...she does a terrific job with this event and it breaks records every year!



Greyhound Gang



I hope no one I know sees me in this get-up!



We LOVE Volunteers!



Good Morning America! was on hand to video tape a group ROO!!



I triple-dog dare someone to yell "Bunny!"



Life is a BEACH!...
Dewey Beach 2007

If you have anything that you would like to submit for any upcoming newsletters, please send it to:

Anita Weikel, Newsletter Editor
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Camp Hill, PA 17011
Anita_Weikel@hotmail.com

Upcoming events...

Saturday, March 22, 2008

Meet 'n Greet at the Great Escape Theatre Complex in the Lycoming Mall, 1-5 pm. Volunteers are needed for 1-3 pm and 3-5 pm. Contact Jennie at on-lymrsp@chilitech.net

Saturday, March 22, 2008

Wild About Animals, Penn State Snider (Ag) Arena, State College from 10am to 3pm. Contact Ellen at greytflash@yahoo.com for more information

Sunday, March 23, 2008

Meet 'n Greet at Petco, State College from 11am to 2pm. If you have a greyhound and want to participate or volunteer, contact Ellen at (814) 880-6184 or ellen@nittanygreys.org.

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Meet 'n Greet at the State College Nittany Mall from 2-5pm Contact Liza at lah209@psu.edu

Sunday, June 22, 2008

The 2008 Pet Fair will be held at Riverfront Park in Loyalsock Twp (Williamsport) on Sunday, June 22, 2008, from 11am to 3pm. If you have any questions, contact Penny Ruggieri at pennyruggieri@hotmail.com

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Check out a very special greyhound event nearby in the Finger lakes of New York, with concerts, warm weather, ice cream socials, a hound walk to a gorgeous waterfall, and lots of wine tasting for four days. The hotels offer discounted rooms and no pet fees. Sound too good to be true? It is! Grapehound Wine Tour. Check it out at www.grapehounds.com

We're on the web at:
www.nittanygreys.org



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"Feel free to contact any board member at any time with any ideas or suggestions you may have!"

Visit www.nittanygreys.org for all the latest calendar listings, dog availability, stories, photos, and other greyt stuff!

***If you have not been receiving e-mails from Ellen Aschenbrenner regarding events or other news, and would like to, e-mail her at greytflash@yahoo.com and she will add you to the distribution list.*