

Northern  
Lights  
Greyhound  
Adoption  
Mission Statement

“We are a non-profit group of volunteers dedicated to finding responsible homes for retired racing greyhounds, and educating the public about greyhounds as pets.”

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# Chasing Tales

Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2012

## Alone Training

By Laura H.

The first thing I wanted to do when I brought home my first hound was shower her with love, toys, and treats. But, I knew that was not the way to start our lives together. I needed to start “alone training.” My job was to help my retired racer adjust to life in a house. She walked the three stairs into my house with the greatest of ease. Still on the leash, I put the plastic muzzle on her and walked her around the house. She had a few minutes to sniff around the house and the cat. Then I walked her outside. We walked around the yard until she went potty. Then came the hard part - leaving her. The crate was set up in the dining room because this is where we spent the most time. I removed her muzzle and collar and said the word I planned to use, “crate” and pointed to her new den. It was lined with an old blanket and her new frog, and was placed in the corner of the room. With a little coaxing, she stepped in. I gave her a small treat, said “good girl,” and shut the door. I turned on the radio and walked out the door. No goodbyes, no extreme gestures of affection, just calm body language and I left. I stood outside my back door listening for her to whine. To avoid stressing her out, I timed myself 5 minutes. At 5 minutes, I came back into the house, acting like it was no big deal. I did a few things in the kitchen, then walked over to her crate

and let her out. I did not give her any attention until she calmed down. Then I gave her a pet and a treat. This told her when I leave, I’m coming back and it was nothing to get excited about. I repeated this process a few more times that day. Each time I was gone for a few minutes longer. Our first Saturday together was a good day. I was able to leave her for 30-minutes by the end of the next day. I wasn’t sure how my first day back to work would go, so I prepared a little treat to leave with her while I was gone. I had purchased a large Kong. I put part of her morning meal into it, smeared some chunky peanut butter over the opening and put it in the freezer. After our morning walk, I put her in her crate, turned the radio on and gave her the Kong. To my great surprise when I returned from work, she was roaching (laying on her back with her feet in the air). The Kong was empty and in the corner of her crate. By the end of the week she would run to her crate as soon as I got the Kong out of the freezer. Give your hound the tools for success and start alone training when you first bring your new hound home. Consult your veterinarian if you have questions about alone training or use an online resource like [www.greytalk.com](http://www.greytalk.com) for additional tips.



Greycie with her first toy ever, a frog



Tank, Havana,  
and Greycie at  
a Pet Store  
Meet & Greet

As a part of the Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption family, you have access to an amazing socialization opportunity for your dog(s) and an incredible resource for you to learn from and share with other greyhound owners. The purpose of the meet & greets is to introduce people to the dogs that have stolen our hearts and educate them about what great additions they are to our families. You can help the hosts by checking out the NLGA events calendar and bringing your hounds out to meet other people and to be around other hounds. Meet & Greets are an invaluable resource in the winter when our dogs naturally spend so much more time indoors. They are typically social animals and coming out to be with other dogs and other people only reinforces this idea. Not to mention, you get to show off your dogs. It is always fun to hear other people gush over how beautiful your dogs are.

It's a great way to fight the cabin fever that we all get this time of year, dogs and humans alike. Typically, our dogs are exhausted after spending a couple of hours being fawned over by store customers and other hound owners. Therefore, they usually travel much better on the way home and of-

ten sleep the rest of the day!

If you need one more incentive to bring your dogs out, you are helping to find homes for more of these wonderful dogs. Having multiple hounds at a meet & greet definitely makes a big impression on people looking to adopt. Not only do they get to see the wide variety of colors but they get to see how well behaved they are in public. I can't tell you how many people are impressed by how well the dogs behave when they are together en masse. Often I have seen a person come around the corner in a store and be startled by seeing a pack of big dogs standing (or lying down) in front of them because the dogs were so quiet, they had no idea that anyone was there! We also have the opportunity to educate the public and dispute the many misconceptions about greyhounds. For example, the two most common questions or comments I have heard are: "Are those Great Danes?" and "I couldn't have a Greyhound; they're too hyper" (usually said while one or more hounds are lying on the ground sleeping). "

In short, please consider doing yourself, NLGA, and your hounds a big favor. Come out to say hello and show off your dogs for a good cause.

## Meg Goes to School

By Desiree G.

I wanted to bring Meg to school for show and tell and that happened. I waited and waited until my Papa (grandfather) brought Meg. Meg had to walk upstairs to my class on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. When they walked in, Mrs. Solle, my 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, was happy to see Meg and Papa. Meg was too nervous to do a trick.

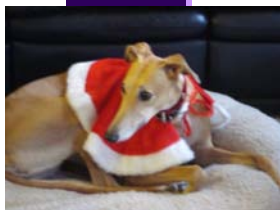
Papa and I took questions from some of my classmates. Some of the questions were:

Q: Do you raise greyhounds? A: No, we adopt and foster

Q: Are they retired racing dogs? A: Yes

Q: How old is she? A: 4 years old

I walked Meg up and down the aisles so my classmates could meet and pet Meg. I passed out NLGA-MN cards. I told my class to go on the website [www.NLGA-MN.org](http://www.NLGA-MN.org). Papa thanked Mrs. Solle. The class and Mrs. Solle thanked Papa for bringing Meg in for Desi's show and tell. That was Meg's day at school.



Meg dressed up  
for the holidays

Do you love going out with your greyhound? Mt. Olivet Careview Home of Minneapolis had invited us to show off our greys at two events in 2011. The first was a Halloween parade. The hounds and some humans arrived in costumes and made the residents laugh. In December the jingle bell parade spread holiday cheer to the residents. This combined effort with Greyhound Pets of America-Minnesota (GPA) brought smiles to many of the residents who live in this community. I'm sure 2012 will bring more invitations for us to share our hounds. If you are interested in being part of these events watch the Yahoo Chat Group for upcoming events. Hounds must be up to date on shots and good with people.



Havana with a resident

## How I Fell in Love with Roofus

By Anne W.

Donna Barr and Sandy Jammer can tell you that I wasn't the calmest new Greyhound adopter. I did tons of reading about the joys and challenges of adopting greys. I read *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* cover to cover. I visited the Woodbury Meet and Greet, and spoke at length with Judy Olson. When the timing was right for me, I took the plunge and sent in my application. I hounded Donna. I prepped all of my references. Then the day finally came and I drove to Foley to be introduced to DeeDee and Roof and decided the handsome red fawn, Roof, was the one. Joyfully, I prepared for his homecoming. I got the bowl, bed, crate and food. Then I picked him up from Sandy's house.

Roof calmly climbed into my car for the drive home. He did a tiny bit of sniffing around my house and immediately found his new bed where he has spent the majority of the past nearly 4 years. He was a dream on the leash. He was so calm. But not me. I absolutely had an anxiety attack. I called Sandy and told her I thought I'd made a mistake. Donna made a follow up call, and I told her the same thing. They both suggested I take a little bit of time before making a decision to

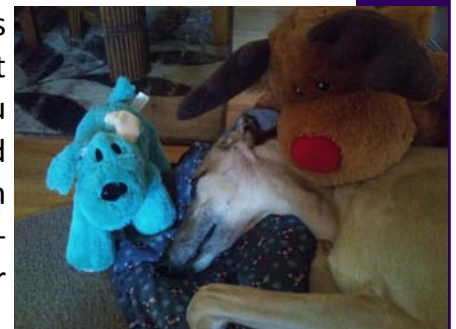
return him. And luckily I did.

And then it happened, I fell in love. I've met so many lovely people through him. By taking him for walks in my neighborhood, I finally got to meet my neighbors. I took him to some meet & greets and greyhound walks, and met some new and wonderful friends.

I find great humor in seeing my handsome boy run to his toy box to find just the right stuffie to toss around the room before our walks or he thinks all pillow-like objects are stuffies (including my new Christmas pillows). I love that he gets so excited when we go to a M&G – whining all the way there. I love that I had to teach him to “speak” and roo. I love that he is a cookie monster. I love how his silly face is at the window when I leave in the morning for work – and there at night when I get home.

I love how he knows who has a digging spot in their yard (thank you Carole and Roberts) and the joy on his face when he finds them and begins digging to the other side of the planet.

So now the only issue is the separation anxiety. Not Roof's – mine.



Roof the “Lady Boy”

## We Have a Home Thanks to NLGA

Name	Racing Name	Adopter
Vida	La Dolce Vida	Marlene Howell
Windsor	My Perogative	Michael Leek and Sheri Notch
Rowdy	Pat C Lollygag	Dave and Zuzanne Fenner
Asi	Makingrulesasigo	Kazuko Shiba
Smiley	McKennas Smile	Kristine and Todd Larson
Kate	College Kate	Kelly and Glen Williams
Indy	BBs Playfair	Lisa and Thomas Chudyba
Tucker	Mels Tucker	Gerriann Brower and Barbara Mock
Cody	Cranky Cody	Colleen and Dennis Schmalzbauer
Zucca	Pumpkinhead	Lori Bernier
Echo	Lillivonshtoop	Mary and Kevin Schaffer
Tippy	Nobel Tippy	Dinah Abraham
Kelsey	Kelsey the Kid	Donald Koch
Grit	Ale True Grit	Coley Myrmel
Q	Ale Quiet Man	Kathleen Meyer
Baby	Too Shay	Maggie and Alex Wilson
Tabby	Free and Perky	Catherine Pulling & Paul Bernstein
Maddie	O Maddie Girl	Dana Erickson
Hoop	Muzzle Man Hoop	Gillian Ekern
Hugo	Sy	Carole Oinonen
Duke	Ale the Duke	Joe Craddock
Tuc	OI Friend Tuc	Victoria Thor and Martin Harris
Dylan	Dylan Man	Allen and Christina Snider
Lena		Kari Keller

### Helpful Hints for New Adopters

By Karilynn K.

1. Research alone/separation training and practice it religiously when bringing home a new greyhound.
2. Read recommended books by NLGA and ask as many questions as possible.
3. Remember, greyhounds are a sensitive breed, so be sure to train with positive reinforcement and never be harsh.
4. Be sure to put masking tape on any large windows or sliding glass doors so your hound doesn't run into them.
5. Giving a greyhound something to do while in their crate is helpful. A frozen Kong filled with peanut butter and food is a nice treat that will take time for a greyhound to lick clean.
6. Take time when introducing a greyhound to children or other pets in the home.
7. Greyhounds should be provided with soft places to sleep, such as a dog bed or a blanket.
8. Never take a greyhound off of their leash unless they are in an enclosed space where they will not be able to run free. They are very fast and have little to no recall when chasing a desirable object.
9. Your hound should always wear a collar with a tag that has a current telephone number.
10. Practice caution when teaching a greyhound how to go up and down stairs. They may take them too quickly and hurt themselves.

System Lanelle, was born on June 14, 1996. Yes, that is over 15 ½ years old. She is still going strong!

Steve and Dana Kimmel adopted System Lanelle and gave her the name Lani. Lani was one of the very first greyhounds adopted by Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption. She first appeared on the cover of the NLGA Chasing Tails newsletter in November of 1998 and again January 1999 when she was fostered by Candace Larson and Marvin Johnson.

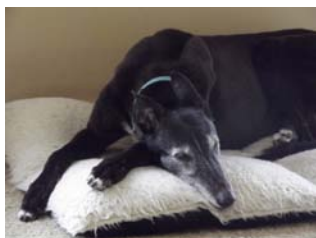
We asked the Kimmel's to share a few stories, in their own words, about Lani and asked the secret of her long and healthy life.

## What made you decide to adopt Lonnie?

We've only picked out one of our greygirls and that was our first, Tina (Two Timing Tina) back in 1993. Whenever we are in the need for a new greygirl, we always bring our current greygirls with us and let them figure out which one will fit with our family. Lani was picked out by Tina and Tara (Lone Tara) when we decided that (everyone experiences moments of insanity, right??) we needed a third greygirl. We had the room, the yard, and the love for another one - the rest, as they say, is history.

## What are her favorite foods and toys?

Lani absolutely adores browned ground beef in her dinner. At her age, we pretty much cater to whatever will keep her eating well since it gets harder to keep her weight up. So she gets a rotation of ground beef, canned chicken, salmon, or tuna added to her kibble. She definitely prefers the ground beef - Costco loves us! She doesn't really have a favorite toy, but she still will munch a dental chew or a small rawhide bone on occasion.



## Are there any quirky things about her now that she is older?

For some reason, she has developed a habit of panting. All the time. Rodger (Barr) assures us that nothing is wrong; it's just a habit. We always know where she is since we can hear her panting! She also likes to "check in" with us in the middle of the night - unless you are a VERY sound sleeper, it's impossible to sleep through the panting when it's right in your face!

She also snores now - for some reason when she snores, it's endearing and sweet. :-)) Unlike us human counterparts.

## Any funny stories or antidotes to share?

We hadn't had her very long and were finishing up the family room in our last house. The guy putting tile around the fireplace had left a bag of grout sitting with his tools - normally the girls wouldn't have bothered a thing. For some reason though, Lani decided she needed an adventure. I got home from work that night to find our beautiful black greygirl turned to almost white head to toe, covered in grout dust, along with just about everything else in the family room. Tina and Tara wouldn't even go near the family room - almost as if they were letting us know they had nothing to do with Lani's hi-jinks. I can laugh about it now, but I sure wasn't very happy with her at the time!

Once, during a snowy winter, we were out in the back yard with Lani, enjoying a little sunny weather playtime. All of a sudden, Lani's ears went up, she stood statue still, and then dove snout first into the snow. When she pulled her head out of the snow, there in her mouth, hanging by it's tail, was a mouse! She has also brought us rabbits, squirrels, voles, and even a pheasant once. She always looks so proud, as if to say, "See, I could catch those darn lures!" She still trots out to the back fence to stare down deer stealing from our bird feeder.

*Story Continued on Page 6*



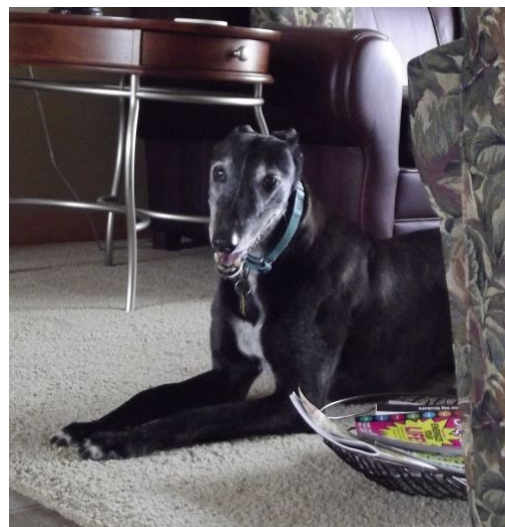
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Happy Valentine's Day			1	2 7:00-8:00 p.m. Quarry PetSmart	3	4
5 12:00-1:30 p.m. Richfield PetSmart 12:00-3:00 p.m. Lakeville Chuck and Don's	6	7	8	9 7:00-8:00 p.m. Quarry PetSmart	10 6:00-8:00 p.m. Min- neapolis Pet Supply Plus	11 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Elk River Chuck and Don's 11:00-1:00 p.m. Waite Park PetSmart
12 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Bloomington Chuck and Don's 12:00-2:00 p.m. St. Louis Park PetSmart	13	14	15	16 7:00-8:00 p.m. Quarry PetSmart	17	18 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Plymouth PetSmart 12:00-2:00 p.m. West St. Paul Petco 12:00-3:00 p.m. Maple Grove PetSmart
19 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Stillwater Petco	20	21	22	23 7:00-8:00 p.m. Quarry PetSmart	24	25 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Brooklyn Park Petco 12:00-1:30 p.m. Woodbury PetSmart 12:00-1:30 p.m. Maplewood Pet Smart
26	27	28	29			


### *The Secret to Long Life Continued from Page 5*

#### **What is the secret to her long life?**

I wish I knew - we'd bottle it up and give it to greyhounds everywhere. All our other greygirls left us on or before the age of 10, so once Lani hit 10, we thought, "Oh boy, here we go again." She continues to amaze us, and Rodger, with her great health. She still has all her smarts about her and knows how to work the system! Some possibilities to a longer life are good genes, good food, lots of love, and listening to your vet. We are convinced that Dr. Barr (and his staff) are one of the reasons Lani has lived a long life. What Rodger suggests, we do.

We hope this gives everyone a snapshot of what Lani is like. She is an amazing companion; in fact, she is truly my heart dog. Another fun fact is that Lani has lived with every greyhound we have ever owned since she has had such a long life. She's a good teacher, too, helping us teach house rules to the new greygirls we've gotten.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00-8:00 p.m. Quarry PetSmart	2	3
4 12:00-1:30 p.m. Richfield PetSmart 12:00-3:00 p.m. Lakeville Chuck and Don's	5	6	7	8 7:00-8:00 p.m. Quarry PetSmart	9 6:00-8:00 p.m. Min- neapolis Pet Supply Plus	10 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Elk River Chuck and Don's 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Waite Park PetSmart
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18 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Stillwater Petco	19	20	21	22 7:00-8:00 p.m. Quarry PetSmart	23	24 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Brooklyn Park Petco 12:00-1:30 p.m. Woodbury Pet Smart <b><u>9:00-5:00 Twin Cities Pet Expo</u></b>
25 <b><u>10:00-5:00 Twin Cities Pet Expo</u></b>	26	27	28	29 7:00-8:00 p.m. Quarry Pet Smart	30	31 12:00-1:30 p.m. Maplewood PetSmart

**Writers Needed**

Chasing Tales is always looking for articles. I know many of you have stories to share about adventures you took with your hound. We want to hear all about it. Do you have a recipe to share? Share how a foster dog found their greyt forever family. You can contribute every quarter or once in a while. If you are interested, please send your article to Laura at musictherapy952@yahoo.com.

**Make a Donation**

Your tax-deductible donation to Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption will help support an organization dedicated to finding good homes for retired racing greyhounds. Donations are always needed and appreciated, and help fund community education and many of the expenses involved in the placement of these graceful, loving animals.

**Tags and Collars**

It only takes one second for a sighthound to get loose. Please be sure your dog has up-to-date tags on their collar every time they leave the house, even when they are in a fenced yard. Don't like the sound of tags? Try a leather neck collar or tag bags, or rubber band the tags together. If you have a fenced yard with gates, always keep the gates locked. Tags and martingale collars can get caught on wire crates, be sure you removed your dog's collar before kenneling. Tags should never be attached to the D-ring on collars due to potential choking hazards (on wire crates and fences). The D-ring can also get hooked on bathroom cabinet knobs. Remove martingale collars in the house and use house collars with tags instead.

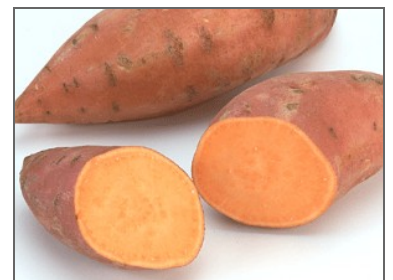


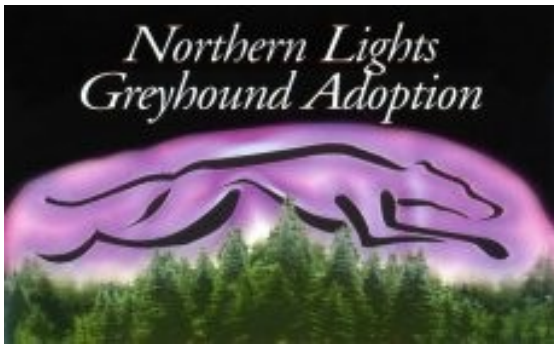
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30						

## From the Kitchen of Mona Springis-Doss

### Dehydrated Sweet Potatoes

It is easy to dehydrate sweet potatoes as a treat for your hound or for use in a Kong. First wash them and cut them into slices or strips. Then bake them in a single layer on a cookie sheet at low heat. I use 300 degrees, until they are done. The color will turn to a dull orange, or a light brown. Stop before they turn burned brown. Immediately take them out of the oven. They will be hot, and maybe a bit bendable. That's okay. If you have a cooling rack use that, otherwise you can leave them on the cookie sheet. Because there are no preservatives or salt on these they should be stored in the refrigerator. I keep mine on the counter and have them consumed within the week. I hope you enjoy trying this recipe with your hound!





Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption  
 11247 Foley Boulevard  
 Coon Rapids, MN 55448  
 Phone: 763-754-9754

We have been placing these faithful, loving and wonderful companions for nearly 15 years. In that time we have found homes for over 1,300 dogs. Our experienced adoption coordinators will work closely with you to find the perfect pet. We'll help you find out if a greyhound is the right breed for you, your family and your lifestyle.

**NLGA Board Members**

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**Many Thanks to the Following**

United Way of Central New Mexico  
 Linders Greenhouse  
 Pat C. Collins Kennel  
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 Patti Graber in memory of Ruby  
 Yvonne and Bill Long in memory of Ruby  
 Denise Werner in memory of Ruby  
 Bill and Marge Thomas  
 Patti and Mike Graber in memory of Maranda  
 eCylce  
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 The Grabers in memory of Bill  
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