

Prison Greyhounds Volunteer Application

Prison Greyhounds Inc is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to placing former racing greyhounds in permanent loving homes, while providing the inmate-handler with the opportunity of finding compassion, unconditional love and rehabilitation through the human-dog connection. We entrust the prison foster greyhounds to a team of handlers for 2 months. At least one loving, responsible dog handler is with them 24/7. We provide specialized coaching to handlers. Prison Team Volunteers meet with the team weekly to check on the progress of the dogs and handlers. Meanwhile, other volunteers work to locate a “forever home” for each greyhound. The inmate-handler demonstrates patience, responsibility, teamwork, and learns job skills. This program gives the inmate an opportunity to make amends while exploring a better way of living before being released back into our community. The training that the dogs receive through this foster care (basic house manners) increases the desirability and retention of greyhounds in their new adoptive homes.

We also specialize in fostering and adopting “repaired fracture dogs”. These can only be fostered in volunteer homes. These are greyhounds that retired due to racing injuries. They are totally healed from surgery when we receive them. They are beginning to rebuild their leg muscles to full strength. Sometimes we foster dogs that have specialized medical needs too.

We do not seek to replace or compete with other local greyhound adoption groups, but to operate in our own niche for the cause of ‘homing’ more greyhounds. We appreciate any organization that is helping greyhounds find homes. There are still far too many greyhounds needing homes!

Volunteer Opportunities

We operate as a TEAM. Teams accomplish more. Know that we value your time, your resources, talents, expertise and friendship. These are the ways you can volunteer:

Donors – We need money! We are an official 501(c) 3 nonprofit. We are funded entirely through generous donations and fundraising efforts. This program is free to the prison – there is no cost to the State or taxpayers.

Meet & Greet – This team is “the face” of Prison Greyhounds! These volunteers host monthly events so the public can meet a greyhound (your own dog or an available foster dog). You will select a location (such as a pet supply store) that is convenient for you. You are teamed up with other volunteers. People stop by your table to learn about greyhounds, our prison program, available dogs, and our adoption process. We are ALWAYS expanding this team! We are able to open up new locations as volunteers come forward.

Adoption Representatives– This team is entrusted with the responsibility of approving adoption applications. Adoption Representatives are greyhound savvy. We try to assign according to your area. When assigned an application to be processed, the rep will first start with a preliminary phone call, followed by a visit to the applicant’s house. We provide scripted questions as a guideline to direct these conversations. The goal is that the application is processed within 2 weeks or less, if possible. Adoption Reps are authorized to approve an

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application on site. However, if the rep feels the application should be denied, or delayed, they will send their report to the board (thru the Adoption Coordinator.) Only the board can officially refuse an application, and the board will be the ones to notify the applicant. (The board makes the final decision, so that you don't ever have to feel like you are the one bearing the weight of responsibility.) After the greyhound has gone home to his adopter, the Adoption Rep checks in with their new adopter 'on or about' day 2, week 2, and then at the 2nd month. (More frequently if necessary.) With this follow-up communication, we can catch after-adoption issues early, allowing us to offer suggestions and supportive advice. Despite all the great information provided to adopters before they take their greyhound home, it is nearly impossible for them to 'take it all in'. We have an approved list of recommended resources (The Dummies Book, our Adoption Handbook, documents listed on our website under Resources.) It's also great fun to hear how the hound is settling in, and what new personality traits are coming out. We are NOT asking you to be a professional canine behaviorist, and we can suggest further resources if professional help is necessary.

Foster Homes – Most of the time, the prison fosters go directly from the prison into their new adoptive forever home. Sometimes we need an alternate plan in case this is not possible. We also will not leave a greyhound in the program if he is not adjusting well to incarceration. We also need foster homes for the repaired fracture dogs we bring up for adoption. Once we receive and process this Volunteer Application, if you indicate an interest in fostering, we will send you a separate **Foster Home Guidelines & Application** to complete as well. We provide crate, bed, coaching, veterinary expense and monthly meds, winter coat, leash, collar, muzzle, and greyhound. You provide a home, dog food, love and patience for up to 6 weeks. It is wonderful if you can bring your foster greyhound to meet & greets, but not required. Sometimes we need foster homes for very short term (1 weekend or 1 week).

Social Media Team: Website / Facebook (Creative, talented writers) - These volunteers maintain our Facebook and website (The website is Word Press hosted). They update dog profiles, event pages, etc. We ALWAYS need volunteers who are skilled, creative writers! Volunteers who write Facebook profiles receive weekly reports on their assigned greyhound, written by either the inmate-handler or the foster home. But these reports are only a smidgeon of information to help you create their story. You can include racing stats from Greyhound Data. Remember: People not only fall in love with these greyhounds, they fall in love with their story. And you get to tell it! Facebook Admins will actually post the scripts they create directly onto Facebook. Approved photos are provided for you. Each greyhound posts once per week on Facebook. Website volunteers will simply email their scripts to our Website Admin, who does all of the posting onto every dog's website profile page. (You do not post, the website admin posts for you.) Please submit a sample of your writings if you are interested in any of these creative writing positions. We have other writing needs as well.

Prison Volunteer Team – Usually these limited positions are filled, but we always welcome expressed interest for future openings. Every volunteer on this team will be required to attend two orientations. The first is one that we do ourselves before adding anyone to this team. Afterwards, if you are still interested, the Indiana Department of Corrections will conduct their orientation, complete with criminal background check. Two people from this team (Jeff & Mary Loudon) go every week. They coach the handlers, answer questions, collect weekly

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dog reports, check the dogs' progress, and assist in demonstrating dog handling techniques. The rest of the team joins them on New Dog Day, every 2 months, to deliver new greyhounds. They may also assist on the day the greyhounds leave the prison (Dog Adoption Day). Or if an unexpected trip to the vet is required. On this day we enter the prison and assist in bathing, feeding, grooming, and settling the new arrivals. The prison foster hounds are trained for good house manners, not a full obedience course. Volunteers must be 21, willing to drive to the prison (Putnamville.) You will be subject to electronic scans and full body pat downs every visit. You will have no communication with the offenders outside of the dog meetings, and this communication will stop when the handler leaves the program.

Event Planners – From time to time we engage volunteers who are skilled in this area. Often these are for one-time or once a year events.

Our Leadership Team:

The Board – There are usually 5 board members. The board determines solely among itself who to appoint for each position, when an opening arises, and as the need dictates. We do not have a 'membership' that votes the board into position. We have no term limits. When there is a vacancy on the board, the remaining board members appoint the next new board member. We are open to self-nominations from our volunteers, and we often advertise for any vacant position. We are informal. We always welcome expressed interest for a future date. The board is headed up by the Founder and President, Mary Loudon.

The Directors (which may be an individual or a husband-wife team) are leaders and team builders who are appointed by the board, and who report to the board. We are open to self-nominations for the Director positions. If the position is currently filled, we welcome expressed interest for a future date if ever there is a vacant position. (Life brings change!) Currently the positions are: Adoption Coordinator, Meet & Greet Director, Foster Home Director, Social Media Director, Volunteer Coordinator

Prison Greyhounds has a Volunteer Handbook that provides a lot more training and detail on each position. If you desire to read it before you submit this application, please request it. Otherwise, we will send it after we receive your application.

**PLEASE KEEP the first 3 PAGES for your reference,
RETURN PAGES 4, 5, 6. (Either mail your application or send a good quality scan)**

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Date _____

I have reviewed the **Prison Greyhounds website** for a better understanding of who we are _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____

Email(s) _____

Please attach additional sheets if necessary to answer the following questions. The questions are designed to help us determine your best fit, so we can maximize your talents and desires.

1. Do you / have you ever, owned a greyhound? (This is not a requirement.) How many greyhounds have you adopted (or fostered) and over how many approximate years?
2. Are you willing to purchase and read the book "**Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies**" by Lee Livingood? We use this as one of our main resources for adopters.
3. Tell us about your current or past involvement as a volunteer **with animal groups**.
4. Tell us about your current or past involvement as a volunteer **other than** with animal groups.

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5. Please list any expertise that you have, which you feel is relevant to this volunteer opportunity.

6. What do you see as your greatest strengths, skills, or talents?

7. What is your least favorite or least productive skill area? What should we NOT ask you to do? 😊

8. After reading the description of each team, check the team(s) you are volunteering for.

Meet & Greet Team (This can be monthly, or on an “as-needed” to fill in basis)

Foster Home Adoption Representative Dog Transportation (occasional)

Social Media/Creative Writer Prison Volunteer Event Planner

Other – If your expertise or interest is not mentioned, **please describe your proposed volunteer role.** We'd love to hear your ideas & experience.

Do you have a relative or friend incarcerated in Putnamville Correctional Facility? _____

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Our volunteers are our most important resource. Without your help we will not fulfill our mission. Thank you for choosing to spend your time volunteering with Prison Greyhounds. Please do not take offense that we ask you to sign a "Hold Harmless Waiver". It is required by our insurance company. Even our board signs!

Hold Harmless Waiver

In consideration for being allowed to volunteer with Prison Greyhounds, I hereby assume all risk of injury and/or loss of property that may result to me. I hereby hold harmless; and I release and forever discharge Prison Greyhounds, Inc., its board, volunteers, foster homes, the prison facility, staff, and the inmate-handlers, and any veterinarian treating the dog at the request of Prison Greyhounds, from any and all claims and actions, including, but not limited to losses, liabilities, damages, costs, and expenses arising from bodily injury or property damage resulting from volunteering, whether personal injury to me, my family members, third parties, or other animals.

I acknowledge and accept that:

- Animal behavior is unpredictable and animals may injure people, other animals or property.
- There is no way to write a complete list of all possible risks of volunteering and caring for any animal, including our greyhounds.

Volunteer's Signature (**all parties must sign individually**):

Date: _____

Thank you! Return pages 4, 5, 6 of this Volunteer Application Form to:

By mail:

Prison Greyhounds
2952 Haverhill Dr
Indpls, IN 46240

By email:

prisongreyhounds@comcast.net

Sorry, we do not have a fax number. If you are going to scan your application, please send us a good quality scan!