

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 each dog to a team of 2 handlers for 2 months. At least one loving, responsible dog handler is with them 24/7. We provide specialized coaching to handlers. Assigned prison volunteers meet with them weekly to check on the progress of the dog and handlers. Meanwhile, a team of volunteers work beyond the razor wire to locate a “forever home” for each greyhound. The inmate dog handler learns patience, responsibility, job skills, and teamwork. 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 greatly increases the desirability and retention of greyhounds in their new adoptive homes.

We also specialize in fostering and adopting “repaired fracture dogs”. These are 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.

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 saving more greyhounds. We appreciate any organization that is helping greyhounds find homes. There are still far too many greyhounds still 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 teams you can volunteer on:

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 another volunteer. People stop by your table to hear about our prison program, available dogs and our adoption process. We are ALWAYS expanding this team! We open up new locations as volunteers come forward.

Adoption Team – This team assists in processing written adoption applications. Some of our volunteers visit homes. Some work over the telephone. We will provide scripted questions to conduct informal phone interviews, or for home visit conversations. Every application will get an initial response within 48 hours, although the complete process usually takes up to 2 weeks. Approval starts with a preliminary interview over the phone, or sometimes face to

Prison Greyhounds Volunteer Application

face at a meet & greet. Home visits are conducted next, by a different volunteer. After each of these steps, the volunteers give their observations to the Adoption Director. Only the board can officially approve or refuse an application but your opinions are very helpful. 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 Adoption Team – This team can catch after-adoption issues early, and offer suggestions and supportive advice. We contact adopters on day 2, week 2, and then at the 2nd month. (More frequently if necessary.) 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 provide scripted questions to inquire how the new greyhound and family are doing. We have an approved list of recommended resources (The Dummies Book, our Adoption Handbook); so you do not need to BE the expert! When you do not know the answer, and cannot find it in our suggested resources, you can also reach out your Director. It's also great fun over the course of the two month follow up process to hear how the hound is settling in, what new personality traits are coming out and how happy the adoptive family is.

Foster Homes – In an ideal world, the prison greyhounds go directly from their prison foster home into their new adoptive forever home after they graduate. However, 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 his 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 the 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.

Social Media Team: Website / Facebook (Creative, talented writers) - These volunteers maintain our Facebook and website (Word Press hosted site). They update dog profiles, event pages, etc. We ALWAYS need volunteers who are skilled, creative writers! You will receive weekly reports on your specific assigned greyhound, written by either the inmate-handlers or the foster home. But these reports are only a smidgeon of information to help you create their story. 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 onto Facebook. Approved photos for Facebook are provided by your Director. 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, you do not need photos.) Please submit a sample of your writings with this application.

Prison Volunteer Team – Usually these limited positions are filled, but we always welcome expressed interest for the future. Every volunteer on this team will be required to attend two

Prison Greyhounds Volunteer Application

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 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. 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 (Greencastle.) You will be subject to metal scans and full body searches 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.

Our Leadership Team:

The Board – There are 5 positions on our **Board**: One President (the Founder), 2 Co VicePresidents, 1 Board Secretary, and 1 Treasurer. The board determines solely among itself who to appoint for each position when an opening arises. 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 advertise for any vacant position. We always welcome expressed interest for a future date.

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 also open to self-nominations for the Director positions whenever there is a vacant position. Currently the positions are: Adoption Director, After Adoption Director, Meet & Greet Director, Foster Home Director, Social Media Director.

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
AND RETURN PAGES 4, 5, 6**

Prison Greyhounds Volunteer Application

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 _____

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. Feel free to attach a resume if desired so that we can know you better. (Not required.)

1. Do you, have you ever, owned a greyhound? (This is not a requirement.) How many, & how long?
2. Are you willing to purchase and read the book "**Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies**" by Lee Livingood?
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.

Prison Greyhounds Volunteer Application

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, circle 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 Team

Adoption Team

After Adoption Team

Social Media Team

Prison Volunteer Team

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? _____

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!

Prison Greyhounds Volunteer Application

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