

## Prison Greyhounds Volunteer Application

**Prison Greyhounds is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to placing former racing greyhounds in permanent loving homes, while providing the offender-handler with the opportunity of finding compassion, unconditional love and rehabilitation through the human-dog connection. Some Indiana offenders just need a friend and would welcome an opportunity to make amends while exploring a better way of living. Together, we can impact both.**

In addition to fostering dogs inside a prison, we encourage the adoption of greyhounds that might get overlooked, perhaps because of color, age, special needs, or past injury. We find them loving, responsible homes simply by telling their story. Greyhound adopters have big hearts!

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.

### **PRISON GREYHOUNDS POSITION ON GREYHOUND RACING**

Prison Greyhounds has taken the official position that we are “for responsible greyhound racing.” We work with the racetracks and kennel personnel to find homes for their retired greyhounds. They entrust their precious retirees to us. We have developed friendships, and a working relationship (not a combative one), with the racing industry. We have been inside some of the racing kennels, seen greyhound farms where the pups are raised, visited the race tracks, and known some of the trainers, owners, and breeders. We believe greyhounds benefit from their life as a racer.

We trust the kennel workers to select which dogs will thrive in a unique prison foster program such as ours. They also share with us the special needs any of our dogs might have. We want our greyhounds to be adopted by people who come to understand and love the breed and their unique characteristics, not because they feel sorry for them or because they want to “rescue” them.

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### **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 Team** – 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.

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**Adoption Representatives**– This team is entrusted with the responsibility of approving adoption applications. Adoption Representatives must be greyhound savvy. We try to assign according to your area. Approval starts with a phone call, followed by a visit to the applicant's house. We provide scripted questions to guide these conversations. The goal is that the application is processed within 2 weeks or less, if possible. Adoption Reps are authorized to approve an 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 2<sup>nd</sup> month. (More frequently if necessary.) With this follow-up communication, we can catch issues earlier, 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** – If interested, please complete a separate **Foster Home Guidelines & Application**, found on the website.

**Script Writers Team** - We ALWAYS need skilled, creative writers! Volunteers write Facebook profiles after receiving weekly reports on their assigned greyhound. The reports are written by either the offender-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! You will receive dog reports weekly, from Mary Loudon. When your script is written, you email the script to [prisongreyhounds@comcast.net](mailto:prisongreyhounds@comcast.net). We will post for your dog. We will add a photo. So you do not have to be a pro at figuring out the technology. Please submit a sample of your writings if you are interested in a creative writing position. Please understand that almost all scripts submitted get edited or revised before final posting, for various reasons, so don't take that as a lack of appreciation!

**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 'lengthy' orientation, complete with criminal background check... Two people from this team (Jeff & Mary Loudon) go into the prison every week. Loudens 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 1-2 months, to deliver new greyhounds. On this day we enter the prison and assist the handlers as they meet, bathe, feed, and settle the new greyhounds. Prison foster hounds are trained for good house manners, not an obedience course. This team may also assist on the day the greyhounds leave the prison (Dog Adoption Day). Volunteers will be subject to electronic

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scans and full body pat downs every visit. You agree to no communication with the offenders outside of the dog meetings, and this communication will stop when either you or 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 events.

### Our Leadership Team:

**The Board** – There are usually 4-5 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 sometimes 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 Louden.

**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, should the position become open. (Life brings change!) Currently the positions are: Adoption Coordinator Jan Hulet, Meet & Greet Director Catherine Hamrick, Foster Home Director Erin Jesswein, Social Media Director Jeff Louden  
Meet & Greet Director: Catherine Hamrick, Mobile (440) 991-6103, : [cmahamrick@gmail.com](mailto:cmahamrick@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Handbook** – We have a 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.

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**Please 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 (Please return the separate application for this team)

Adoption Representative     Script 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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 offender-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**):

**Volunteer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Thank you! Return pages 4, 5, 6 of this Volunteer Application Form to:**

**Potential Volunteer: send this signed application to:**

Prison Greyhounds, 2952 Haverhill Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46240, or scan and email to [prisongreyhounds@comcast.net](mailto:prisongreyhounds@comcast.net) (We do not have a fax and do not receive texts. Please do not send a photo made by your phone.)

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This is a local communication to volunteers.**