

## Prison Greyhounds Volunteer Application

**Prison Greyhounds is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to placing former racing greyhounds in permanent loving homes.** We also 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 bigger than over-size hearts, just like the breed they love!

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, visited some greyhound farms where the pups are raised, visited the race tracks, and gotten to know some of the trainers, owners, and breeders. We believe greyhounds benefit from their life as a racer.

We trust the kennel workers or trainers to 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, adoption fees, and fundraising efforts.

**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. There are written reports to turn in after your home visit. 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

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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. If you are joining this team, please request the "Adoption Representatives Best Practices" document for further instructions. The Adoption Coordinator is Jan Hulett, mobile (586) 530 7952, ewww0419@gmail.com

**Foster Homes** – If you think you are interested, and need more information, please complete a separate **Foster Home Guidelines & Application**, found on the website under the VOLUNTEER tab. After you have reviewed this document, additional questions may be sent to Foster Home Director Erin Jesswein, mobile (317) 919-7441, erin.jesswein@gmail.com. The application must be submitted to Prison Greyhounds headquarters as directed.

**Event Planning Team** – From time to time we engage volunteers who want to help during special events. The Event Director is Catherine Hamrick, mobile (440) 991-6103, cmahamrick@gmail.com. She is the organizer that recruits volunteers to help on special occasions such as our Greyhound Play Dates, Greyhound Dog Walks, Greyhound Brewery Parties, etc.

### Our Leadership Team:

**The Board** –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 Loudon. Current board members are Mary Loudon, Jeff Loudon, Carol Hulett.

**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 becomes open. (Life brings change!) Currently the positions are: Adoption Coordinator Jan Hulett, Event Director Catherine Hamrick, Foster Home Director Erin Jesswein, Social Media Director Jeff Loudon

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**Keep pages 1 & 2; Please RETURN PAGES 3, 4, 5**

(Either mail your application or send a good quality scan, not a phone photo. We do not have a fax number)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

Emai(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach additional sheets if necessary to answer the 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? 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.
5. Please list any expertise that you have, which you feel is relevant to this volunteer opportunity.

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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.

Foster Home (Please return the separate application for this team)

Adoption Representative     Event Planning Team

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

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, and any veterinarian treating the dog at the request of Prison Greyhounds, from any and all

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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! Keep pages 1 & 2; Return pages 3, 4, 5 of this Volunteer Application Form 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.)

**All Volunteers must please subscribe to E-news on the website! (Look for the subscription link on the bottom.) This is a local communication to volunteers, information that you will not see on Facebook.**