

The Zoomies

WINTER EDITION 2023 NEWSLETTER | PRISONGREYHOUNDS.ORG

**A GREYHOUND'S
NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTIONS
2024**

**FUR-TOGRAPHY
101**
Pawfect phone
pics

**PRETTY IN
PINK**

Racing Towards
Wellness with
Speed and Style

**THE THRILL
OF THE
CHASE**
Inside The World
Of Field Trial
Racing

**GRINNING
GREYHOUNDS**

A Guide to
Sparkling Canine
Smiles

**A HOUND'S
RACE DAY**

**PRISON
GREYHOUNDS**
... beyond the race.
Greyhound and lurcher adoptions



Editors's Note



Time has flown since our last update, and we're excited to bring you more fascinating stories and updates in this special winter issue. Remember to keep up with our latest news and events by subscribing to our e-news at prisongreyhounds.org and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

In this edition, we share the uplifting tale of Pink, a greyhound lurcher who overcame an injury in her second race ever. Her story is a testament to these amazing dogs' resilience and indomitable spirit. In November 2023, several Prison Greyhounds volunteers attended a field trial race. This issue of Zoomies gives an in-depth look into field trial racing, reflecting on our experiences and the enthusiastic community we met. Our involvement has fostered a stronger connection with the field trial community, helping to secure loving homes for retired racing greyhounds.

As the winter season unfolds, we encourage you to embrace the warmth and companionship that greyhounds offer.

Best wishes for a cozy and joyful winter,

Elise and Maverick

Elise 





The Zoomies

WINTER 2023



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The Thrill of the Chase

Inside the World of Field Trial Racing

The Spirit of the Hunt

Field trials are more than just races; they are a vibrant display of skill, speed, and the deep bond between humans and hounds. These events, often held in private, are a testament to the abilities of hunting and racing dogs, especially sighthounds like greyhounds. Designed to replicate the challenges of a landscape hunt, these trials are a throwback to the days of traditional hunting, testing the hounds in a controlled, yet challenging environment.

The Races Types

Green Green Races: The starting point for novices, focusing on younger hounds on the smallest course.

Green Races: A notch higher, with more experienced challengers on the smallest course.

Junior Races: Featuring the most spirited hounds, these races take place on the largest course.

Senior Races: The pinnacle of field trial racing, reserved for the elite hounds on the largest course.

Key Roles in Field Trials

Turner/Starter: Responsible for releasing the hounds at the start of the race using a hand slip technique, as there is no starting gate.

Catcher: A vital role at the race's end, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the hounds as they cross the finish line.

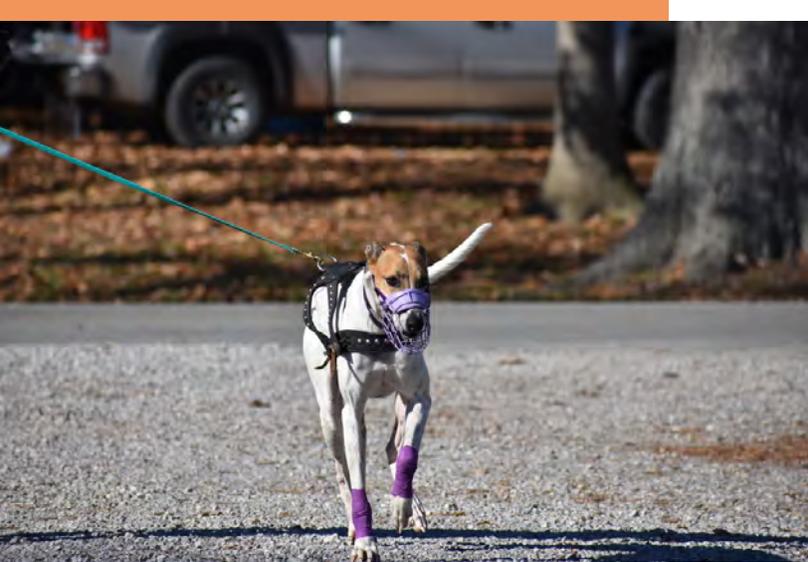
Lineman: This person calls the first line and second line winner with a photo finish.

Tree Caller: Determines the first to acknowledge the raccoon

Haul Driver: Drives the racers to the start line and sometimes starts the race by dropping their hand.

Field trialers: Often likened to trainers in the National Greyhound Association (NGA) context, field trialers are the dedicated humans behind the racing hounds.

Field trial racing greyhound (lurcher): A racing greyhound mixed with a coonhound, or more commonly another field trial greyhound, is often used in field trials.



not just about skill and speed; they also involve strategic elements, evident in the entry fees and prize awards. A unique aspect of these races is the "claiming races." In these events, participants have the opportunity to essentially 'bid' for top-performing hounds.

This time is crucial for organizations like ours, especially at the end of the season (Oct/Nov), as it marks the busiest period for rehoming these graceful athletes. Fall is the perfect time if you've ever considered opening your heart and home to a retired racer. We encourage those interested in fostering or adopting to reach out and submit their applications. Your support can make a world of difference in the life of a retired field trial hound.



The Morning Ritual and Fashion Parade

As dawn breaks, the day's excitement begins. Trainers diligently prepare their hounds for the upcoming heats, a ritual that's as much about readiness as it is about presentation. This pre-race period is not just functional; it's a vibrant display of each racer's unique style. The hounds, adorned in various colors, leather, and muzzles, present a striking parade of canine fashion.

The anticipation builds as the hounds await to be loaded into the horse trailer or pickup truck, their gateway to the starting line. Each horse trailer, a hub of contained excitement, carries about seven hounds per heat. Inside, the atmosphere is electric: some hounds express their eagerness through barks, while others wag their tails, embodying their enthusiasm.

The courses in these trials are crafted to simulate a real hunt, complete with twists, turns, and varying terrains. This design pushes the dogs to their limits, showcasing their natural abilities and training.

A Day at the Races: An Insider's Look

Invited by Allison, one of the seasoned field trialers, we got an exclusive glimpse into these exhilarating events. The end-of-year races, drawing participants from regions like the Midwest, Texas, New York, and Iowa, span over two days, with more than 21 races on the first day and culminating in the finals on the second. This venue boasts one of the circuit's longest and most revered tracks. The races are





perhaps with a Go-Pro attached to a racer, offering a rare glimpse into the heart of the chase. Until then, the mystery endures, adding to the allure and excitement of field trial racing, where the unseen is just as thrilling as the seen.

The Finale: Thunderous Paws and Judgement

As the hounds dash from the woods, their thunderous paws announce the race's final stretch. Experience this thrilling moment on our Instagram (@prisongreyhounds). At the finish line, catchers, marked by their numbered armbands, prepare to greet the hounds. The courses are too long for the starter to get to the finish line before the hound so the catchers are at the finish line waiting for the hounds. These catchers are sometimes from competing teams, showcasing the sport's camaraderie.

The hounds, alongside their turners/starters, make their way to the starting line. During this event the haul driver prepares to signal the start. In these moments, the field trialers carefully remove the hounds' harnesses and gently hold them by the collar, ready to let them sprint into action.

The race reaches its pivotal moment as the hounds dash across the finish line, with a line judge meticulously recording the order of their crossing. The true test, however, lies at the tree where each hound must bark to signal the

With a drop of the haul driver's hand - the universal signal in this gateless start - the field trialers employ a hand-slip technique, unleashing the hounds. And just like that, they are off, each hound a blur of speed and determination, racing towards the first turn of the trial.

The Race: A Symphony of Speed and Instinct

As the hounds are set free, they dash into the woods, transforming the race into an unseen spectacle of speed and instinct. Trained to rely on their senses and decision-making, these hounds navigate the woods, guided by the scent of a raccoon on the course.

This part of the race, hidden from the spectators' eyes, is shrouded in mystery. It's a wild dance through nature, where only the hounds and the wilderness know the unfolding drama. The field trialers, having instilled independence and skill in their charges, can only wait and wonder, imagining the chase as it happens beyond their sight.

The true test of training and instinct comes alive in these hidden moments. It would be exhilarating to capture this part of the race,





viewed not merely as athletes but as an extension of the family.

In the vibrant world of field trials, it's common to witness multiple generations of trainers working side by side. This tradition fosters an environment rich in trust, respect, and mutual understanding. Such relationships between hounds and trainers enhance the sport and greatly benefit the hounds in their post-racing lives, particularly when they transition to adoptive homes. In this way, the field trial community nurtures a legacy that reaches far beyond the race track, touching the lives of future adopters.

After the Race: A Life of Love and Leisure

Retired field trial greyhounds are great pets, thanks to the nurturing, training, and affection they receive from their trainers. This hands-on approach ensures they adapt smoothly to family life post-retirement, a transition facilitated by the efforts of groups like the American Lurcher Project (ALP). Vickie from ALP has cultivated a strong rapport within the field trial community, making ALP a trusted partner for trainers looking to retire their hounds.

The capacity of ALP to kennel these retired hounds is limited, and the collaborative work of adoption groups enables more hounds to find forever homes. Field trialers often wait patiently for space to open up in the ALP retirement kennel, a process eased by the coordinated efforts to establish foster homes and find adopters. It's a challenging task, and here at Prison Greyhounds in Indiana and western Ohio, we always need more volunteers. We encourage those interested in getting pre-approved for fostering, adopting, or even fostering with intent to adopt, ensuring these graceful athletes find the loving homes they deserve.



raccoon's presence, showcasing speed and keen awareness. Success in this challenge brings points and pride, with exceptional performers earning the distinction of being top hounds. This event, a fusion of competition and camaraderie, forges lasting triumphs and memories. As the excitement settles, the hounds retreat to rest and rejuvenate, gearing up for their next spirited race.

The Bond Beyond the Race

Field trialers embody versatility, seamlessly taking on roles as trainers, caretakers, and catchers. This multifaceted sport extends beyond the physical agility of the hounds, delving into the emotional connections between the trainers and their canine companions. More than a competitive event, field trials are family affairs, where hounds are

**Interested in fostering?
Complete application online**

Fur-tography 101

Pawfect phone pics!



1 Lighting is Everything: Good lighting can transform an ordinary snapshot into a masterpiece. Opt for natural light whenever possible – outdoors during the golden hours (early morning or late afternoon) or in well-lit rooms.

2 Patience is a Virtue: Dogs are not professional models, and they rarely sit still on command, especially greyhounds. Be patient and let them be themselves. Capture candid moments that showcase their unique personalities.



3 Use Treats and Toys as Props: Engage your dog's attention with treats or favorite toys to create captivating expressions. Hold a treat near the camera to capture those soulful eyes, or toss a toy to capture their playful side. Just be cautious not to overdo it – we don't want a sugar rush or a dog too focused on treats to pose naturally.

4 Get on Their Level: Kneel down or even lie on the ground to shoot from your dog's eye level. This perspective creates a more intimate and engaging photograph. It also avoids the common pitfall of having your dog's face obscured by the background.

5 Choose the Right Background: Pay attention to the background of your photos. A cluttered or distracting background can take away from the main focus – your dog! Opt for simple, clean backgrounds that complement your furry friend's fur color and personality.





8

Soft Focus for Sweet Dreams: When photographing your sleeping pup, use the "Portrait" or "Live Focus" mode on your phone camera. These modes create a soft, blurred background (bokeh) that naturally draws attention to your dog's peacefully slumbering form. This effect adds a dreamy and intimate quality to your sleeping dog photos, making them even more enchanting.



6

Burst Mode for Action Shots: If your dog is a bundle of energy, use burst mode on your phone to capture a series of shots in quick succession. This increases the likelihood of getting that perfect mid-jump or mid-run shot without missing the action.

7

Nature as a Frame: Capture your dog within the natural frame of the environment. Whether it's a doorway, an arch of trees, or even Metazoa, using nature as a frame can draw attention to your dog while also providing context to the photo.



9

Focus on Your Dog's Eyes: Unleash the power of eyes for an emotional touch. Tap on the screen to focus your camera and meter for proper exposure.

10

Capturing Sleeping Beauties: Greyhounds cherish their naps, offering ideal moments for tranquil photography. Gently capture them sleeping in soft light, using their favorite blanket or bed for coziness. This approach underlines their calm, contrasting their typical energy, and shows that restful times are as special as active ones in your dog's life.

HAVE FUN!

Most importantly, enjoy the process! Your dog can sense your mood, so make it a joyful experience. Play, laugh, and cherish the moments you're capturing.

A Hound's Race Day

Experience the thrill of a race day through a hound's eyes, from eager anticipation to the exhilarating dash to the finish line. Each moment is a glimpse into the heart of the adventure.



WAITING FOR THE BIG ADVENTURE IN THE HORSE TRAILER TO START THE RACE



HOPPING IN, FEELING THE BUZZ. OFF TO THE START LINE



HEARING THE CALL FROM THE HAUL DRIVER, RUNNING WITH ALL MY MIGHT!



TIRED BUT PROUD, CAUGHT BY MY CATCHER FOR A WELL-EARNED REST



FIRST TO BARK AT THE RACCOON - INSTINCTS IN ACTION!



FIRST TO CROSS! THE WIND, THE CHEERS - IT'S EXHILARATING!



RELAX AND RECHARGE. RESTING UP, REPLAYING THE RACE, READY FOR THE NEXT ROUND.



Pretty in Pink

Racing Towards Wellness with
Speed and Style

Age: 18 months (Born May 20, 2022)

Racing Name: Cobra Kai

Weight: 47 lbs

Breed: Field trial racing greyhound

Personality Traits: Friendly, high-energy,
resilient

Additional Info: Likes car rides, loves toys,
loves giving kisses

In the picturesque borderlands of Indiana and Ohio, a tale of resilience and hope unfolded. Pink, a spirited brindle field trial racing greyhound known as Cobra Kai, embarked on a journey that would redefine her life.

Born on May 20, 2022, Pink's racing career was as brief as it was brilliant. Her life took a dramatic turn on November 4th during a race. A collision on the track left her with injuries that, while not life-threatening, set her on a path to a new destiny.

Injured but Unbreakable

Injured during a beginners' race, Pink displayed an extraordinary resilience. The 47-pound warrior faced a new kind of race – a race for recovery. Bruised and unable to put much pressure on her front right leg, her field trialer knew she needed a new home. The America Lurcher Project, along with Prison Greyhounds, stepped in to help Pink start anew.

Pink's journey to recovery was filled with challenges and love. Despite injuries and pain, she adapted to her new life with remarkable grace.



PINK SAYING GOODBYE TO HER MOM, RUDY



A Beacon of Hope

Pink's journey to her forever home exemplifies resilience and the profound bond between humans and animals. Her remarkable recovery highlights her strength and the care she's received. Her ongoing story, shared on social media, not only chronicles her healing but also celebrates the extraordinary connection between humans and their pets.

This inspiring tale reminds us that setbacks can lead to powerful comebacks. Pink's story, a testament to determination and spirit, is a heartwarming narrative of overcoming adversity with grace and vigor.

Her transition from the racetrack to a comfy bed in a foster home was a testament to her spirit. Each step, from medical assessments to rehabilitation, showed her determination. At VCA Advanced Veterinary Care Center, Dr. Tobias and her team diagnosed her rapid muscle loss, leading to sessions with Dr. Talaga, a specialist in animal rehabilitation.

Hydrotherapy, Walks, and Love

Pink's treatment includes physical therapy, hydrotherapy and shockwave therapy. Shockwave is a newer offering at VCA that can dramatically improve healing in injured tendons and ligaments. Her foster family, supported her through daily walks, massages, and exercises. Despite her eagerness to play and run, Pink had to adhere to a strict regimen of no zoomies to ensure her recovery. As a 18 month old, she was not happy.

Her story reached a heartwarming chapter when she met her adopter at a Hollywood Feed Meet and Greet. The social butterfly that she is, Pink charmed everyone, including her new little dog sister.





Thank You to Pink's Angels!

Thank you to everyone who supported Pink's journey! Your generous donations helped us reach our fundraising goal, covering her medical care. Your contributions have been vital in Pink's recovery, demonstrating the power of community and compassion. Pink's success is a testament to what we can achieve together.



Grinning Greyhounds

A guide to sparkling canine smiles



The Importance of Dental Health for Greyhounds

Greyhounds, celebrated for their slender builds and athletic prowess, rely on their teeth for more than just eating. These swift canines use their teeth to interact with the world, grasping and carrying objects, making dental health a critical aspect of their overall well-being. Poor oral hygiene in greyhounds can lead to more than just bad breath; it can result in painful gum disease and tooth decay. Moreover, dental issues can extend beyond the mouth, potentially causing systemic health problems. Ensuring good dental care is therefore essential for preventing oral diseases and maintaining their happiness and ability to enjoy life fully.

Signs of Dental Problems in Greyhounds

Be vigilant for signs such as persistent bad breath, swollen or bleeding gums, reluctance to eat, or diminished interest in chew toys. A greyhound pawing at its mouth might be a sign of discomfort due to something trapped between their tightly-spaced teeth. The following section delves into contributing factors for greyhound dental problems and offering insights into prevention and care.

**Healthy Teeth,
Happy Hound!**



Key Contributors to Greyhound Dental Problems

Genetics.

Many greyhounds inherit a propensity for dental issues, including weaker teeth or gums, making them more vulnerable to oral diseases.

Mouth Structure.

Their narrow jaws often feature tightly packed teeth, which can trap food particles and make cleaning challenging, thus increasing the risk of dental diseases.

Hydration.

Insufficient water intake can also affect dental health. Adequate hydration is essential for saliva production, which helps naturally cleanse the mouth and reduce the risk of dental problems.

Age.

As greyhounds age, they are more likely to experience dental wear and tear, gum disease, and tooth decay, just like other breeds.

Chewing Habits.

Unlike some breeds, greyhounds are not aggressive chewers. Regularly chewing appropriate toys and treats can naturally improve dental health by reducing plaque and tartar.



Quick Tips

To promote dental health in greyhounds, owners should maintain a routine of brushing their dog's teeth, proper hydration, using chew toys and dental treats, and arranging regular vet checkups for dental assessments and cleanings. Consulting a veterinarian for a tailored dental care plan is also recommended. By understanding the breed-specific challenges and adopting a proactive approach to dental care, you can ensure your greyhound's smile remains as radiant as their personality.



A GREYHOUND'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS 2024



BECOME A PROFESSIONAL COUCH
POTATO



WORK ON MY PAW-FECT POSE TO BECOME
THE NEXT BIG DOG INFLUENCER.



DEVELOP A PLAN FOR STEALING
SOCKS, SHOES, ETC. WITHOUT
GETTING CAUGHT.



BREAK MY PERSONAL RECORD
FOR MOST ZOOMIES IN THE
BACKYARD



TAKE A NAP IN EVERY ROOM
TO ENSURE QUALITY NAP
ENVIRONMENTS ARE
MAINTAINED



BE THE CUTEST EVER





Thank You to Our Supporters!



**Carter Veterinary
Medical Center**

since 1991



Hollywood Feed



Received grant award for 2023/2024



And You!



The End!

