

The Zoomies

SPRING EDITION 2026 | PRISONGREYHOUNDS.ORG

Volunteer Highlights



Editors' Note



There's a greyhound asleep next to me as I write this.

His name is Maverick. He came to me through Prison Greyhounds as part of the initial group of field trial racing greyhounds when PG expanded beyond NGA dogs.

Behind the scenes, volunteers helped guide the process every step of the way. Without those people, Maverick wouldn't be in my life.

That's the thing about volunteers. Much of what they do happens quietly and often unnoticed. They review, coordinate, communicate, and step in where needed. When everything works well, it can seem simple from the outside. A dog finds the right home, and it feels like it just happened.

But it didn't.

This Zoomies issue is about making that work visible, and we're grateful to the volunteers who shared their stories.

Inside, you'll hear from people across Prison Greyhounds, from fostering and home visits to meet and greets, transport, and helping us grow into new areas. Each role helps a hound move from arrival to home.

Whether you've been involved for years, are new to the organization, or are simply curious about how it all works, we hope this gives you a clearer picture of the community behind it. As a volunteer myself, I'm incredibly grateful to be part of the community that makes all of this possible.

Because behind every hound finding a home is a group of people who made it possible.

Warm wishes,

Elise and Maverick

Elise



The Zoomies

SPRING 2026



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IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

Some people find greyhounds.
A few spend decades making sure greyhounds find people.

Before there were home visits across multiple states, there were hauls — long drives bringing greyhounds from tracks to the start of their next lives.

Today, the work looks different. But the people who stayed have always been in it for the long haul.

Prison Greyhounds (PG) is built on volunteers. Some show up for a season. Others stay for years. A few find their way here after volunteering with other organizations and choose to keep going.

They stay through pivots, losses, and the moments when the mission has to reinvent itself. Prison Greyhounds has a few of those volunteers. **Nanci Hopperton** and **Al and Barb Beltinck** are among them.

Both came to PG after years with other greyhound groups. Their stories are different, but they share something essential. A commitment that has outlasted multiple organizations, a global

pandemic, the near-collapse of greyhound racing, and the shift to field trial racing greyhounds and hero hounds. They've seen this work from many angles, and they've chosen to keep showing up.



Nanci Hopperton



21 years and still placing hounds

Nanci Hopperton's greyhound story starts where most do. One greyhound, followed by the realization that you can't stop at one.

She adopted her first greyhound 21 years ago from a Toledo-area group and quickly noticed a gap. There was no adoption representative serving Northeast Ohio. So she created the role herself and held it for 18 years.

She helped with everything: meet and greets, applications, home visits, transport to and from partner prisons, foster recruitment, and post-adoption support. Over those 18 years, she placed **several hundred** retired greyhounds into homes. Not as a paid professional, but as a volunteer who saw what needed to be done and did it.



▲ **Smokey, XT's Smokewagon**

That's how she found Prison Greyhounds. In 2025, she adopted **Smokey** (XT's Smokewagon), an NGA greyhound who ran 150 races at Wheeling, West Virginia before retiring at age five. He is her fifth greyhound and her first through Prison Greyhounds.

"The best part of volunteering is sharing all the reasons why greyhounds and lurchers are so special. I love watching them transition from former racers to loving couch potatoes. Sometimes it takes a while for their true personalities to emerge. When it does, it is a joy to experience."

— **Nanci Hopperton**



When the group she worked with shifted focus and greyhounds were no longer available in her area, Nanci didn't step away. She kept networking, cross-posting, and connecting adopters in her area with other organizations.

With fewer NGA greyhounds available, many of her previous adopters began reaching out to ask about their options. Nanci found herself helping them think outside the box — introducing them to lurchers and hero hounds who were just as deserving of homes.

Today, she provides home visit services for families in Northeast Ohio, helping expand Prison Greyhounds' reach beyond Indiana and connect more adopters with the right dogs.

Twenty-one years in, she still believes it.

"I'm grateful to Prison Greyhounds for allowing me to adopt, and to continue to assist other families in finding their new best friends too."

- **Nanci**

"I encourage everyone to please share postings! You never know what connection you may make!"

— **Nanci Hopperton**

Al & Barbara Beltinck

Still in it for the long haul

Al and Barbara Beltinck started fostering greyhounds in 2005. That first experience was the beginning of a long journey with the breed.

Before joining Prison Greyhounds in 2016, they spent over a decade fostering, adopting, and running meet and greets with other greyhound groups. When those groups closed, they found a lasting home with Prison Greyhounds.

“This is the hardest working group we have ever been with. They have taken greyhounds that no other group would take. Dogs with health issues. Black dogs that hardly ever get adopted because of their color, I think at one drop the majority of them were black. No problem, Mary says.”

— Barbara Beltinck

Since 2016, they’ve continued fostering, adopted four more greyhounds, and anchored the Fort Wayne meet and greet presence. They especially enjoy seeing people’s reactions when they meet a greyhound for the first time.

They’ve seen PG navigate the closure of the racing industry, the pandemic’s impact on prison access, and the transition to a new type of hound.



“When the tracks closed with only two left in the US, did Mary close our group? Nope. She said let’s work with field trial racers, part greyhound and part coonhound, known as lurchers. Then came hero hounds, retired blood donors ages 10 to 14.”

- Barbara Beltinck



Opening Your Home

What fostering really looks like, from the inside

Fostering a greyhound is never just one story. It looks different in every home, with every dog, and in every season of life. Some last a weekend. Some turn into adoptions. Some change everything.

What they share is the willingness to open your home and meet a dog where they are. In this issue, five foster families share what that experience has looked like for them.



FOSTERS NEEDED

The need for foster homes is greater than ever. Prison Greyhounds provides support every step of the way. Interested in fostering? Complete an application at prisongreyhounds.org.

We began by attending monthly meet and greets with Kane, enjoying the community and the opportunity to advocate for the breed. Over time, those early visits grew into a much larger role. While we still attend events and assist with home visits, fostering has become our focus.

There is something uniquely rewarding about welcoming a new foster greyhound, often a dog who has never known a staircase or a living room, and guiding them as they learn what it means to be a family pet. Fostering is not without its challenges.

Brad and Jen Lightcap 28 fosters and counting

In Brad's words

Our journey with Prison Greyhounds began in 2018 with a single, life-changing decision: adopting our first greyhounds, **Kane** formerly Big Daddy Kaan (BFW Kaan), and later **Neyland**, formerly Buzzard (Dog Comin' In Hot). What started as a personal milestone quickly grew into a deep-rooted commitment to the organization.



▲ Brad and Neyland (Buzzard/Dog Comin' in Hot)

Brad and Jen Lightcap

Each dog brings a different temperament, and some transitions are smoother than others. The first week is often the hardest, filled with the growing pains of decompression and house training. During those moments, my wife, Jenn, is my anchor, helping me navigate the tough days until we find our rhythm.

Our resident dogs, Kane and Neyland, are also part of the process. It usually takes them a day or two to adjust, but they welcome each new foster and help them learn the routines of home life. We are now preparing to welcome our 28th foster. The excitement of a new arrival never fades, because we know how the story ends.

The most meaningful moment is the handoff. Whether a family comes to pick up their dog or we bring the dog to them, seeing their excitement makes every difficult night worth it.



▲ Foster Bree, Neyland, Kane, and Jenn at a Metazoa Brewing Prison Greyhounds event

“Volunteering with Prison Greyhounds has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of our lives. We look forward to continuing this work and helping each dog transition from their past into their future.”

- Brad Lightcap



Jessica Greenshear

A lifelong love of greyhounds

Jessica Greenshear's connection to greyhounds started early. Growing up, her family would visit the Florida tracks and bring retired racers home. That early experience stayed with her.

In 2016, while living in Indianapolis, she began researching greyhound adoption groups and found Prison Greyhounds. She adopted her first greyhound, **Krypto** formerly known as Superman (Mama's Sob Story), who had gone through the prison program and quickly adjusted to home life.



▲ Jessica Greenshear and family

Not long after, she decided to foster. One of her early fosters, **Jersey**, formerly River (SNL River Runner), a prison graduate, came to her after recovering from a broken leg. Helping a dog through that transition gave her a deeper understanding of what fostering can mean for dogs who need a little extra support.

Over time, Jessica and her family fostered five dogs and stayed involved in other ways, including bringing their dogs to home visits during COVID to help potential adopters find the right match.

For Jessica, fostering has been a natural extension of a lifelong love for the breed—one that continues to evolve with each dog she helps along the way.



▲ Jersey (left) and Krypto (right)



▲ Jersey (left) and Krypto (right)

Scott and Cindy Keller

Helping wherever needed

Before finding Prison Greyhounds, Scott and Cindy were already helping dogs through volunteering and short-term care. They've always been the kind of people who step in where needed.

They connected with Prison Greyhounds during COVID, when track closures in Florida created an urgent need for adopters. Cindy visited a foster home and chose **Sami** (AMK Mythagorous)—who quickly proved to be a smart, adaptable dog and still enjoys the occasional zoomie today.

Not long after, they welcomed **Cami** (Lady Camille) into the family. What began as a foster placement soon became a permanent match, giving Sami the perfect companion.

From there, their involvement grew.

In addition to fostering, Scott is one of the volunteers who helps with transport runs from Wheeling Island, bringing pre-adopted, fully vetted NGA dogs to their adopters.

They've also supported home visits and stepped in wherever help is needed.

Through it all, their role has continued to evolve alongside the needs of the organization—whether that means opening their home to a foster or helping a dog reach their next destination.

“ After adopting Cami, we have since assisted the group in many ways, including helping with the former New Dog Day hauls from Florida, fostering both greys and lurchers, and most recently doing transport of pups to and from Celina. ”

- Scott Keller



▲ Sami (AMK Mythagorous) and Cami (Lady Camille)



▲ Scott transporting Jack

Sarah and James Torres

Fostering, then finding their fit



▲ Sarah and James Torres

Sarah and James Torres began their journey with Prison Greyhounds in 2019, shortly after adopting their first greyhound, prison graduate **Geo** (Atascocita Geo). Just seven weeks later, they adopted **Gigi** (Roadrunner Hooch) who also was a prison graduate. Not long after, they signed up to be short-term fosters, helping when other foster families needed coverage. They welcomed several fosters into their home, including Money and Holly.

One memory still stands out.

“One foster we’ll always remember is Holly. Her tail never stopped wagging, and she always wanted to be near us, even lying along the kitchen cabinets while we cooked.”

Over time, they realized fostering was not the best long-term fit for their home. Gigi could be feisty with new dogs, and the house was not quite big enough to comfortably manage fosters.

Rather than stepping away, they adjusted how they help. Today, they continue volunteering at meet and greets and community events, often bringing other families’ foster dogs so those hounds can be seen and connect with potential adopters.

“ We want all dogs to have a good home. Geo and Gigi have changed our lives, and we are so happy we adopted them. I wish we could adopt more, but we are most certainly at capacity.

- Sarah Torres

”



▲ Geo, Max and Gigi

Jessica and Noah Simpson

From adopters to fosters

Jessica and Noah Simpson adopted their first greyhound, **Winter** (PJ Midnight Lure), in December 2019, followed by her littermate, **Street** (PJ Street Sense), just a month later. After seeing how much they loved life with their own dogs, they decided to start fostering.

Since 2020, they have helped greyhounds and field trial racing greyhounds (lurchers) adjust to home life, from potty training and learning stairs to walking on a leash and building confidence in a new environment. Most of their fosters stay a few weeks to a few months, though one stayed nearly six months.

For Jessica and Noah, fostering is about helping more dogs find the same kind of home they found with Winter and Street.

“A special moment with every foster is when they roach for the first time, or are finally comfortable enough to cuddle or start playing with toys. We really enjoy seeing their personalities come out. It’s fun showing them new experiences, like walks through the park or getting a pup cup or a cookie from the local pet bakery.”

- Jessica



▲ Noah carrying Marshall



▲ Jessica and Noah Simpson with Winter and Street

Interested in Fostering?

Fostering looks different for everyone, whether it’s a few weeks or a long-term commitment.

Prison Greyhounds provides supplies, guidance, and support every step of the way.

Visit prisongreyhounds.org/volunteer to complete an application today!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Volunteer with Prison Greyhounds

Prison Greyhounds is run entirely by volunteer teams. As a volunteer, you'll join a compassionate community dedicated to giving greyhounds and lurchers a second chance. We value your time, talents, and friendship. You can get involved through meet and greets, events, the adoption team, fostering, cat testing, and vet tech support.

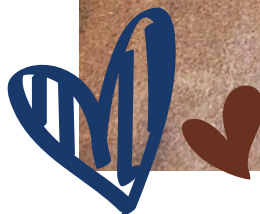
Events Team

Flexible Volunteer Options

Join our monthly meet and greets for a regular volunteer commitment, or jump in for special events at breweries, farmers markets, and other community locations.

Help Hounds Find Homes

Promote adoptable dogs, introduce the public to the breed, connect with potential adopters, and raise awareness about Prison Greyhounds.



Foster Homes

Be a Hero for a Hound

Foster care is essential in helping greyhounds transition to their forever homes. Foster terms can range from just a weekend to a few months.

We've Got You Covered

We provide everything you need—crates, muzzles, leashes, parasite preventives, and complete veterinary care. Assistance with dog food is available if needed.



Foster homes remain our biggest need!





Adoption Team

Help Find Forever Homes

Volunteer tasks include making the initial contact with adoption applicants, scheduling home visits, and conducting home visits with a foster or your own greyhound. You don't need to be an expert, we'll guide you every step of the way and provide a clear outline so you have everything you need to succeed.



Vet Tech Volunteers

Have vet tech skills? We need your help with nail trims and occasional microchipping. We are especially looking for those willing to travel to foster homes.



Cat Testing Volunteers

Based in Indianapolis or near the Celina, OH area and have cats? We occasionally need volunteers to help cat-test our hounds (while muzzled).

How to Get Involved

Watch our Introduction Video: This can be found on our website, and it's required for all volunteers to become familiar with our mission.

Submit Your Application: Whether you're interested in fostering, helping with events, or being part of the adoption team, fill out the volunteer or foster application to get started.

Visit prisongreyhounds.org/volunteer



A little help from you can mean a world of difference for a hound.

The Power of Presence

The quiet impact of a greyhound



Jeff and Dolores volunteer with their greyhounds, **Sabrina** and **Justin** (Justice), each offering a calm, steady presence in their own way. Jeff and Dolores have supported greyhound awareness since 2012 and now volunteer with Prison Greyhounds in Fort Wayne.

Sabrina is a certified therapy dog who visits hospice patients, trauma patients, and people experiencing grief, offering comfort through her gentle nature and quiet companionship. Dolores trained her through the full certification process,

Justin attends meet and greets alongside Sabrina and has grown from an anxious greyhound into a confident ambassador for the breed. Friendly and gentle, he now connects easily with people and children.

“Justin has developed his confidence over time and is very outgoing. He loves people and children. He is very gentle with kids.”
- Dolores

That kind of transformation, from an anxious greyhound to a confident and outgoing dog, takes time, patience, and consistency. It reflects the same steady commitment Jeff and Dolores bring to their work with these hounds.

Though their roles look different, the impact is the same. Whether in a hospice room or at a meet and greet, both dogs create connection in their own way. They help people slow down, reach out, and experience something simple but meaningful.

“Special moments are when we see how excited someone is to meet a greyhound for the first time,”
- Dolores



JUSTIN



SABRINA

▲ *Justin and Sabrina with their own duck stuffies.*

It is a feeling familiar to every meet and greet volunteer, that first moment of curiosity turning into connection. In a quiet room or a busy event space, the setting may change, but the presence is the same.

For the people who meet them, whether for the first time or at just the right moment, that calm presence often stays with them long after the visit ends.

Making Connections Beyond Home Base

When volunteers make it possible

Home visits are often where the adoption journey begins. They are designed to help ensure a good fit for both the dog and the adopter, while also giving adopters a chance to ask questions and prepare for bringing a greyhound home.

During a home visit, a Prison Greyhounds volunteer will connect with the adopter, walk through the home environment, and talk through daily routines, expectations, and any questions along the way. The goal is not perfection, but to set both the dog and adopter up for success.

While most of this work happens in and around Indiana, there are moments when the right volunteers make it possible to reach a little further.

Where We Currently Serve

Indiana • Western Ohio • Northern Kentucky • Eastern Illinois • Nashville, TN

Previous adopters also welcome.



Nanci Hopperton

Northeast Ohio Connection

Readers may recognize Nanci Hopperton from our “Still in It for the Long Haul” feature. In 2025, she joined Prison Greyhounds as both an adopter and volunteer conducting home visits across Northeast Ohio. With more than 20 years of experience placing greyhounds in homes, she brings a deep understanding of the breed and a strong network of adopters in the region. Through her connections, she has helped introduce more families to lurchers and hero hounds.

Leanne Schatz
Nashville, TN Connection



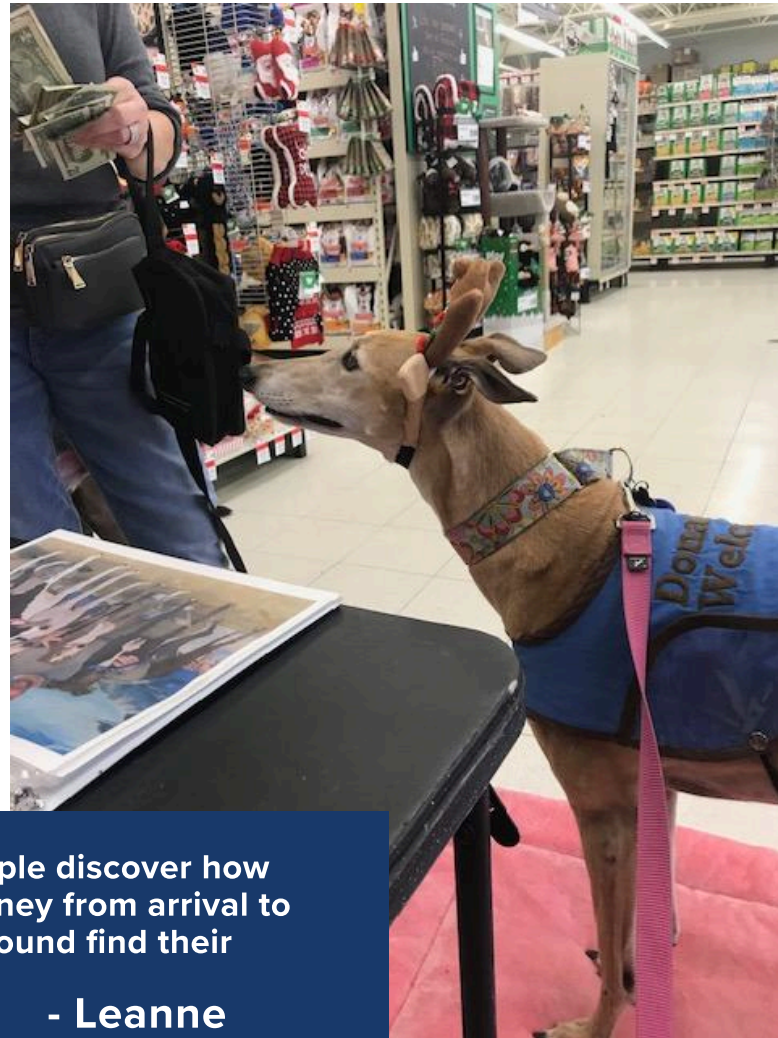
▲ *Leanne Schatz at a New Dog Day haul*

Leanne Schatz began volunteering with Prison Greyhounds while living in Indianapolis, drawn to the organization's mission and training program that supported both the dogs and the people involved. She attended meet and greets, farmers markets, and New Dog Day events, often with her greyhounds **Lucy** and **Beanie** by her side.

"Some of my favorite memories involve volunteering alongside my own greyhounds. Being able to volunteer with both of my dogs was such a special experience."

- Leanne

When Leanne moved to Nashville, she expected her time with Prison Greyhounds to end. Instead, she was asked to help with home visits in the area—and said yes immediately.



"I love being part of the moment when people discover how wonderful greyhounds are. Seeing the journey from arrival to adoption, and knowing you helped a greyhound find their forever home, is incredibly rewarding."

- Leanne

Eliza Heath and Ben Schmutte

Louisville, KY Connection

When Eliza and Ben adopted through Prison Greyhounds, the volunteers conducting their home visit asked a simple question on the way out: Would they consider doing this for someone else? They said yes! Helping make it possible for Prison Greyhounds to expand into Kentucky.

Today, they conduct home visits in the Louisville area, often bringing one of their two dogs, **Lilo**, an NGA greyhound, or **Ozark**, a field trial greyhound, to help potential adopters see what life with a greyhound is really like. One favorite memory of theirs was during a home visit when a child was hoping their family could adopt Ozark after falling for him so quickly. They especially enjoy seeing the excitement of potential adopters and hearing when a placement becomes a successful adoption.



▲ Eliza, Ben, Lilo and Ozark

“Greyhounds bring so much joy to our lives, and we love having the opportunity to help bring that joy to other people as well.”

- Eliza

Where Volunteers Make It Possible

These efforts are not about expanding everywhere. They are about the right volunteers stepping in when the right opportunity arises. Through their willingness to help, more hounds can find the right home, even when that home is a little farther away.

GROWING OUR TEAM

Volunteer Connector

Interested in volunteering? EMAIL IANTHE AT VOLUNTEER@PRISONGREYHOUNDS.ORG

Meet Ianthe Schulte

Ianthe Schulte grew up understanding the value of volunteers. Her mother runs a husky rescue in Ohio, and Ianthe fostered there herself. She knows what it takes to keep an organization moving and how much the right person in the right role can mean.

When her family found themselves dogless, they began looking into adopting a greyhound. Ianthe was especially focused on finding a group willing to consider adopting to families with younger children. That search led her to discover Prison Greyhounds online and connect with the mission. Not long after, they submitted an adoption application

It Only Takes One Lean

Once approved, the family traveled to the Celina, Ohio retirement kennel for American Lurcher Project to meet some of the field trial racing greyhounds, also known as lurchers. While Ianthe was ready, Nick was still a little hesitant about bringing home a new dog.

Then they met Moose.

With his playful personality and steady nature, Moose made an immediate impression. When he walked up to Nick and gave him the classic greyhound lean, the decision was made.

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▲ *Moose and the Schulte family*

Since adopting Moose, Ianthe has fallen hard for lurchers. After years with higher-energy breeds such as Huskies, she loves lurchers' balance, calm enough to be easy, spunky enough to keep things interesting. Moose, she'll tell you, is exactly that. Not overly extroverted. Just right. He has settled in beautifully and is clearly enjoying life with his forever family.

With her background working with dogs and firsthand experience as both a foster and adopter, Ianthe is uniquely suited to support and connect volunteers, helping them find the right place to get involved. At this point in her life, she was looking for something meaningful to take on. The Volunteer Connector role is exactly that, and Prison Greyhounds is thrilled to have her stepping into it as our very first.

What Will Our Volunteer Connector Do?

- Attracting, welcoming and introducing new volunteers to the Prison Greyhounds' Team
- Helping new applicants find the right fit within the organization
- Acting as liaison between new volunteers and their directors
- Tracking volunteer interest and building community connections

Welcome to the Team, Ianthe!

Interested in volunteering? REACH IANTHE AT VOLUNTEER@PRISONGREYHOUNDS.ORG



Now Seeking

Adoption Director



Prison Greyhounds is seeking a volunteer to serve as Adoption Director, helping coordinate approved applications, support our Home Visit team, and keep the adoption process moving smoothly.

What You'd Help With

- Assign home visits to team members
- Communicate next steps with adopters
- Keep application status organized
- Support and train new volunteers
- Working closely with the Prison Greyhounds President
- Provide occasional post-adoption support

Great Fit For Someone Who Is

- Organized
- Warm and responsive
- Comfortable with phone, text, and email
- Good at keeping moving pieces on track
- Passionate about helping hounds find homes



Interested in This Role?

Apply through the Volunteer page at PrisonGreyhounds.org.

In 'Additional Comments', tell us why you're interested in the Adoption Director role.

Please apply through the website rather than Facebook.

Questions or Interested in Helping?

ADOPTION adopt@prisongreyhounds.org
EVENTS events@prisongreyhounds.org

FOSTER foster@prisongreyhounds.org
VOLUNTEER volunteer@prisongreyhounds.org

Show Up However You Can



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Share & Spread the Word

Follow, post, tag. You never know which share leads to a forever home.

Attend an Event

Bring your hound or just yourself. Every person helps create the energy.

Donate

Medical care, transport, supplies. Even small donations make a meaningful difference.

Foster

Even once. Even for a weekend. Short-term fostering is one of the most flexible ways to help.

Stay Connected

Reading this newsletter, cheering for the hounds, and being part of the community all matter.



prisongreyhounds.org

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Some people support Prison Greyhounds for years through meet and greets, fostering, and adoption. Others share a post on their lunch break.

Both matter. Both count. Both help a hound find a home.

Jan Bugher

Jan Bugher, an adopter of prison graduate **Dio** (formerly Warden, Mama's Wayward Son), spent many years volunteering with Prison Greyhounds alongside her husband, supporting home visits, meet and greets, New Dog Day, and fostering numerous hounds. While she is less active today, her connection to the dogs and the community remains strong.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I really enjoyed all of it and have many great memories of the dogs we helped along the way. I miss seeing the hounds on a regular basis."

-JAN

Lynne Buccilli

Lynne Buccilli has found her own way to support Prison Greyhounds, helping through events, transports fosters to events, and outreach whenever life allows. She enjoys meeting both adoptable hounds and the community members who show up.

Among the many dogs she has helped, one stayed close to home. Formerly a foster dog of hers, Mouse is now a beloved member of Lynne's family.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I wish I had more time to give, but for now, I'm happy to do what I can."

-LYNNE

There's no single way to do this. Whether you're all in for years or showing up when you can, you're part of what makes Prison Greyhounds work.

The hounds don't keep score. Neither do we.



THANK YOU

to our volunteers,
supporters, and
partners!



Dr. Carter of Carter
Veterinary Medical Center



American Lurcher Project - Vicki and
her famous red transport van



*Hollywood
Feed*

Behind every adopted hound is a community



Thank you for reading. Time for a nap.

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



[Prisongreyhounds.org](https://www.prisongreyhounds.org)